

THE UK'S BIGGEST REGIONAL GAY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

PICK ME UP
I'm FREE

ZONE

SEPTEMBER 2017
ISSUE 245

**Uni's
back!**

*Our guide
to your
university
essentials*

FEATURED INSIDE

**RAINBOW
FILM FEST**

*We preview the annual
Shropshire festival*

*Summer
of Pride*

**Pictures and
previews of
Midlands LGBT
festivals**

HAIRSPRAY



*Interview
inside
with star
of the
show
Brenda
Edwards*



**FOOD
VIRAL
GADGETS
WHAT'S ON
COMPETITIONS**

**THE
TRAVEL
ISSUE**

**GET SOME GREAT
IDEAS FOR YOUR
NEXT HOLIDAY!**





Birmingham **LGBT**

Supported by  **umbrella**

Sexual Health Services for LGBT People

Here to support you – not to judge you!

Our free and confidential services include:

- Free STI and HIV testing – seven days a week
- Free Rapid HIV testing (results in 60 seconds)
- Free condoms, lube, dams and gloves
- One-to-one support with friendly and professional LGBT staff
- Weekly nurse-led walk-in sexual health clinic – every Thursday
- Clinic Trans – Trans people's sexual health clinic every – monthly every 4th Friday
- Peer Mentoring support
- Support around sexual and domestic abuse
- Referral to counselling and peer support
- Support for those on PrEP

Opening hours

Monday to Friday: 8am–9pm Saturdays and Sundays: 11.30am–7pm

Contact the Sexual Health Team at the Birmingham LGBT Centre

 blgbt.org/sexual-health

 sexualhealth@blgbt.org

 0121 643 0821

 umbrellahealth.co.uk

 0121 237 5700

 [umbrellaatbirminghamlgbt](https://www.facebook.com/umbrellaatbirminghamlgbt)

What's inside:



Happy Holigays! 16

Perfect holiday destinations for you to check out in 2018



Rainbow Film Festival 22

More movie magic in Shropshire



Wolves Pride 24

Celebrate equality in the Black Country this month

ALSO INSIDE:

- Have Ya Heard? 5**
- Local Life Story 10**
- Brenda Edwards 12**
- More Summer of Pride 26**
- What's On Scene 30**
- Arts & Culture 38**
- Out On The Scene 42**
- Competitions 57**
- Gadgets 59**
- Munch 61**
- Stephen Spinks Column 63**
- Cat's Corner 64**
- Steve Ball Column 65**
- Viral 66**

Part of

What's On
MEDIA GROUP

Offices:
Wyrner House,
Bromsgrove St,
Birmingham B5 6RG
and
13-14 Abbey Foregate,
Shrewsbury, SY2 6AE

Get connected...



@midlandszone



@midlandszone

Editor-in-Chief & Publisher: **Martin Monahan** Editor: **Ryan Humphreys** ryan@midlandszone.co.uk 01743 281722
Sales & Marketing: **Lei Woodhouse** lei@midlandszone.co.uk 01743 281703 **Chris Horton** chris.horton@midlandszone.co.uk 01743 281704
Admin/ Subscriptions: **Adrian Parker** adrian.parker@midlandszone.co.uk 01743 281714 **Managing Director: Davina Evans**
Graphic Designers: **Lisa Wassell, Chris Atherton** Accounts Administrator: **Julia Perry** julia@whatsonline.co.uk 01743 281717

This publication is printed on paper from a sustainable source and is produced without the use of elemental chlorine.
We endorse the recycling of our magazine and would encourage you to pass it on to others to read when you have finished with it.

All works appearing in this publication are copyright. It is to be assumed that the copyright for material rests with the magazine unless otherwise stated. No part of this publication may be reproduced, or stored in an electronic system, transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior knowledge and consent of the publishers.



GALAXY



LesbianGayBisexualTransYouth

**LGBT social group for
young people aged 13-18
living in Stoke-on-Trent**

Find us online...

🖱 lgbtstoke.co.uk

📘 facebook.com/GayGalaxyYouth

New **Wednesday** sexual health clinic to launch in Birmingham

Birmingham LGBT has announced that its clinical sexual health services specifically for LGBT people are expanding this month. Supported by Umbrella, Birmingham LGBT has provided a weekly nurse-led sexual health clinic every Thursday since 2015. Starting on Wednesday 6 September, the service will also run every Wednesday from 9.30am to 3pm. Commenting on the news, Matt Lopez, Birmingham LGBT Sexual Health Services Manager, said: "We're really pleased to be expanding services and responding to community demand. Our Thursday clinic is always really busy, and it's great that Birmingham LGBT and Umbrella are now able to offer an additional clinic every week." The new Wednesday sexual health clinic will work on a walk-in basis. It will offer a range of testing and treatment options for sexually transmitted infections, as well as access via Birmingham LGBT's sexual health team to other services and activities.



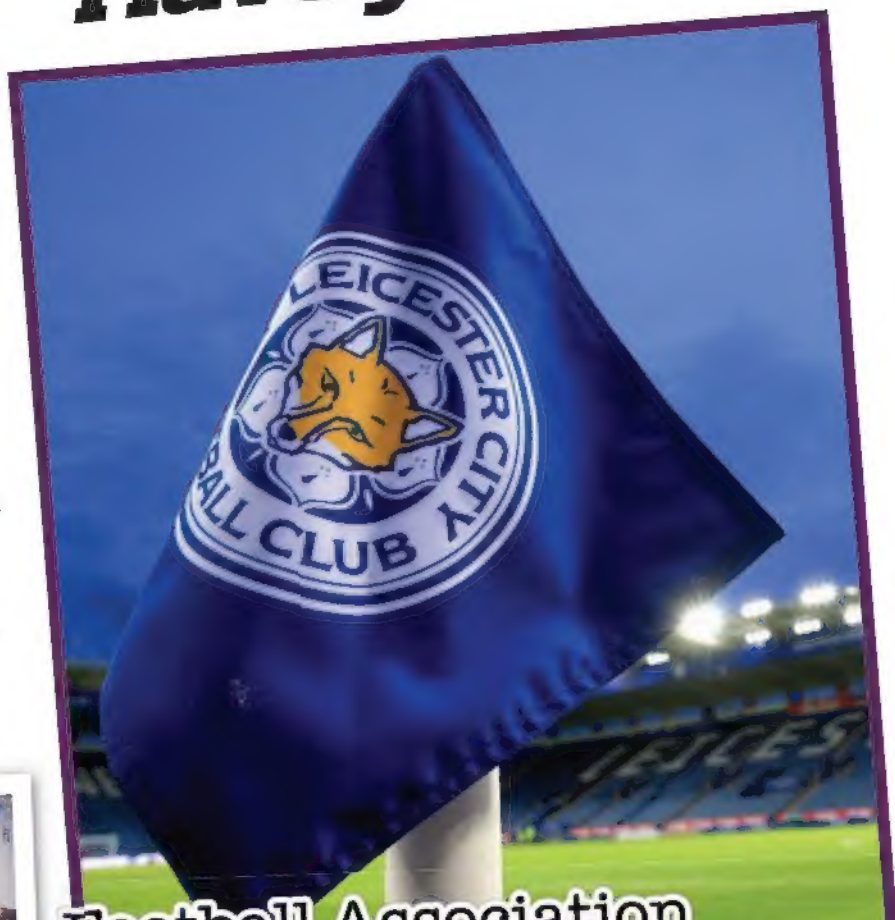
Leicester's Trade Sexual Health service publishes new guide for **lesbian and bisexual women**

Leicestershire's Trade Sexual Health has published a new edition of *Calling All Divas*, a sexual and personal health

guide for lesbian and bisexual women. As well as allowing women to keep up to date with information about sexual health, the guide will also offer advice on breast awareness, the menopause and the use of dental dams. *Calling All Divas* is now available from the Trade office and can be downloaded at bit.ly/TSHoad



Have ya heard?



Football Association may take action over Leicester City homophobic chants

The Football Association may take action against Leicester City Football Club after some of its fans allegedly used homophobic chants at a match against Brighton & Hove Albion. Police are also looking into allegations of anti-gay chanting after supporters were ejected from the stadium. Two fans were arrested for the abuse.

Police appeal after city centre hate crime

West Midlands Police have released a CCTV image of a man they want to talk to in connection with a homophobic assault in Birmingham's gay village at approximately 5.10am on Monday 24 July.

The incident involved a 28-year-old being verbally and physically assaulted outside Glamorous on Hurst Street. The incident is being treated as a hate crime. Police describe the suspect as mixed race and of medium build, with dreadlocks. At the time of the attack, he was wearing a red shirt. If you think you know who this person is, you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. Quote crime number 20BW/156336V/17.



Coventry Pride bosses invite community to 'swim under the moon'

Organisers of Coventry Pride are inviting the local LGBT community to enjoy a late-night swim, under a massive moon, in the city centre's Olympic swimming pool.

The invitation is being made in partnership with Coventry Sport & Leisure Centre, Coventry 2021 City Of Culture Bid and the Festival Of Imagineers.

The cost of taking part in the event is just £2, to access the Olympic pool.

The swimming time, which runs between 9.30pm and 11.30pm on Tuesday 26 September, is reserved for people in the LGBT community. For further information about this particular event and to find out more about other projects with which Coventry Pride is involved, visit the organisation's Facebook page at facebook.com/PrideCov.

Shropshire health bosses refuse £2,500 raised by men in drag



Health bosses in Shropshire have turned down a £2,500 donation because they are unhappy that the money was raised by men dressed as female nurses. The cash was raised at the annual Ludlow Bed Push, an event which has taken place for the last 20 years.

The Bed Push involves a team of men in nurse-themed drag running around the town collecting money.

This year, Jan Ditheridge, Chief Executive of the Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust, has said that she isn't comfortable with how the event portrays medical staff, so has turned down the money. Commenting, she said: "It isn't okay to portray healthcare professionals in this way. We have previously asked that this doesn't happen and therefore don't think it's right to accept any money associated with this activity."

5 Lesbians Eating A Quiche at Birmingham venue



5 Lesbians Eating A Quiche - a 'side-splitting, surprisingly emotional and hysterically funny cult hit' - will show at Birmingham's Old Joint Stock Theatre next month.

The show is the next in-house production from the creative team at the Old Joint Stock Theatre and will feature in the Birmingham Comedy Festival 2017.

The production's promotional blurb sets the scene as follows: 'It's 1956, and the Susan B Anthony Society for the Sisters Of Gertrude Stein are having their annual quiche breakfast. Will they be able to keep their cool when the Communists threaten their idyllic town?...' The show runs from Wednesday 11 to Sunday 15 October.

Have ya heard?

Picture: Chris Jepson



Brighton Pride 2017 the biggest and best on record, say organisers

Organisers of Brighton & Hove Pride have hailed this year's event the 'biggest and best' festival yet, with over 90,000 revellers in attendance. More than 100 community groups, charities, sports groups, dance troupes, corporate partners, floats and walking groups paraded along the seafront and through the city centre en route to Preston Park, where the main Pride festival took place.

Boasting a riot of colour, the site featured dance tents, cabaret stages, acoustic performances, a diversity area and more. The main stage showcased some of the biggest names in music, including Becky Hill, Louisa Johnson and special guests Years & Years, and also hosted a 90-minute show by the legendary Pet Shop Boys. Police and council estimates suggest that Brighton Pride 2017 was celebrated by almost 400,000 people. The figure is made up of 90,000 at the Pride festival and village party, and 300,000 participants and spectators at the community parade.



Margaret Cho to perform at Brum comedy club

American comedian and LGBT rights activist Margaret Cho is appearing at Birmingham comedy venue The Glee Club in November.

The bisexual comedian and TV star will take to the stage on Wednesday 29 November as part of her Fresh Off The Bloat tour.

Talking about the gig, Cho says: "Fresh Off The Bloat is my sickest show to date. It's all about being fresh off drugs and drinking and suicide and coming back to life - finally fished out of the River Styx. It's meta. It's magical. It's me."

L Fest Del Mar 2018 announced



Organisers of the UK's only lesbian festival, L Fest, have announced that hotel places for next year's overseas version of the event are now available.

L Fest Del Mar, a week of 'fun and frolics' in the sunshine, features pool parties, DJs, live music, cinema, beach games, boat trips, a book club, yoga and more.

The event takes place in Campoamor, Costa Blanca, Spain, from Friday 1 to Friday 8 June and is proving so popular that the first hotel allocation has already sold out. The allocation for a second hotel, just a five-minute drive from the event's main hotel, is now on sale.

Visit lfestdelmar.co.uk for more information.

IT
STARTS
WITH
ME



WE STARTED SOMETHING



terrence
higgins
TRUST





**We're testing more, starting HIV treatment sooner,
using condoms, and taking PrEP.
And HIV rates are starting to fall.
TOGETHER WE ARE STOPPING HIV.**



GET TESTED. STAY PROTECTED. FIND OUT HOW AT:

StartsWithMe.org.uk



Local Life Story

Name: Kat Galbraith

Occupation: Principal Violinist and Chair of Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra (BGSO)

Place of birth: Birmingham

Star sign: Gemini

Age: 44

About Kat

Where did you grow up?

In Longbridge (home of Austin Rover) on a lovely council estate on the Birmingham border, 10 minutes' walk from greenbelt and rolling countryside.

Single or attached?

Attached - engaged to Dez, who I've been with for nearly seven years, although we've been friends for the last 15.

What makes you happy?

Random acts of kindness, seeing compassion in action, my children and grandchildren, getting out into nature, bugs, music, sunsets, food, quality time with family and friends, the ocean, sunshine, dancing, my furry companions, playing with BGSO... the list is endless!

What makes you sad?

Not being able to wave a

magic wand for my children when they're going through tough times. Same goes for everyone else and the world, really. I'm easily brought down by world events.

What makes you angry?

So many things - cruelty, fellow humans being singled out, marginalised, bullied, persecuted, mistreated because of their gender, colour, sexuality, religion, ethnicity etc. The way the mainstream media breeds and nurtures hatred.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

To be less of a worrier. I'm the queen of 'but what if...'

What's been the most embarrassing thing you've done in your life?

Being hit by a car when I was 15. My overriding memory isn't of the pain or injuries but of feeling a complete idiot. I couldn't face people afterwards.

Coming out

When did you first know you were bisexual?

At the end of junior school, I had feelings for girls that confused me, but I didn't know what they were. By secondary school, when I started having crushes on boys, I figured it out but didn't know it was bisexuality. People spoke about homosexuality and heterosexuality but not bisexuality. You were either one or the other, and that didn't fit for me.



When did you come out?

Not until I was 28! And even then, it wasn't so much coming out, more my social circle shifting. I met new people and just started being me.

What was school like for you as a bisexual teenager?

Difficult. There was no way I would ever have spoken about my sexuality with anyone. I didn't understand it myself and didn't know how to realise it anyway. I went to an all-girls school and the thought of being 'outed' terrified me. So I hid it. I spent most of my school life feeling like I couldn't be real with anyone.

What would you say to a youngster trying to come to terms with their own sexuality?

Talk to someone. If there's no-one in your life that you trust to share this part of yourself with, find a safe community online. I don't wish I'd had the internet when I was younger, except for this one thing. I think it would have made a huge difference to me throughout my teenage years and into my early 20s.

Quickfire

Who's your favourite actor?

Alan Rickman.

What's your favourite book?

The Time Traveler's Wife.

Half empty or half full?

It's always refillable...

What's your favourite food?

Sunday roast with all the trimmings.

And how about your favourite drink?

Turkish Delight Martini.

Madonna or Lady Gaga?

Lady Gaga.

If you could take a selfie with one person, alive or dead, who would it be?

David Attenborough.

The BGSO

When did you first learn to play an instrument and what was it?

I started to learn the recorder and read music when I was very young, through the church my family attended. I started violin lessons when I was six or seven, stopping at 15.

When did you join the BGSO?

I joined in 2009, not having played for 21 years. I sounded like a cat being strangled! So I worked hard, improved and became the principal violinist in 2013. I'm also on the committee. I'm currently Chair, having occupied various other roles over the years, from librarian to secretary.

What are the challenges?

Personally, finding time around family, work and commitments for personal practice and committee obligations. It's a lot of work, most of it behind the scenes.

What are the highlights?

Performing with my BGSO family. Seeing an appreciative, enthusiastic and supportive audience filling up the venue on concert days, and their lovely feedback post-concert. Some people have never missed a concert and get competitive over who's seen us the most! I love that.

How does BGSO help the local LGBT community?

We're visible, and we're very proud to be representing the LGBT community. We hope we reflect the diversity and talent that's inherent within the community to those outside of it. As an LGBT orchestra, we're able to provide a safe 'non-scene'

environment centred around a shared interest, where people can come together to express who they are without any additional pressure or expectations. This is as important now as it ever was.

We love getting out there into the community to support the events of other organisations, such as the Birmingham Pride and Shout Festival community days, World Aids Day and, further afield, L Fest. We feel passionately about using our platform to support the LGBT community. We regularly raise money for UK LGBT charities, to support their essential work. This year we took the decision to support a non-UK charity at our Pride Proms concert. Our retiring collection was for the Russian LGBT Network, which works tirelessly to bring relief and hope to those facing persecution, torture and death in the Chechen Republic.

Where do you see yourself in five years' time?

Still doing what we enjoy doing so much, only bigger and better. We have a big concert coming up in November with the legendary Miss Money Penny's at Symphony Hall, putting a classical twist to '90s and noughties dance music. This will show a very different side of us, and who knows what we'll do after that!

Gay scene

How long have you been frequenting the Midlands gay scene?

Seventeen years, give or take.

What's been your fondest memory of the scene?

I have so many! Birmingham Pride 2002 really stands out. That was an incredible Pride. I didn't want it to

end. Subway City in the early noughties, and karaoke at the Wellington Hotel. Good times.

What do you most enjoy about the scene?

I feel safe going out. It's friendly, fun, diverse and interesting, with great DJs, bars, clubs and places to eat.

Who's your favourite cabaret act on the scene?

Twiggy, hands down. No contest.

What have you noticed about the way the gay scene's changed over the years?

It's a lot more upmarket visually. The venues are cleaner, prettier and there's more variety.

How would you change the scene?

I wouldn't change it at all.

Time out

Where do you like to go on a night out?

Anywhere that's serving good food and drink, and where I can catch up with friends.

What do you do to relax?

Walk the dog, hang out with friends and family, photography, craft and music stuff.

What type of holiday do you prefer?

I'm a Lesvos addict - friendly people, amazing food, places of interest, sun, sea, sun lounger, book. Perfect!





YOU CAN'T STOP THE BEAT!

International smash-hit comedy Hairspray The Musical is returning to Birmingham for one week only next month. We spoke to the show's star, former X Factor contestant Brenda Edwards, to find out more...

What attracted you to the role of Motormouth Maybelle, Brenda?

I remember watching the original film, then I went to see the musical on Broadway in 2007 and in the West End in 2008. I really enjoyed the whole show but was particularly excited by the Motormouth character. Having a son and daughter of my own, I could relate to her strong, protective, nurturing side, where she has to be in charge. And then there's her entertaining side, where she plays her music and has fun with everyone. Her serious side allows her to lend an ear or a shoulder if needed, but she has her own opinions on things and doesn't mind voicing them. Owning her own record shop, I think she's the central hub, where all the kids in the neighbourhood can come and hang out. And the songs she sings are just fabulous! She has a big personality, just like me, so I think it's a perfect role.

You were on the previous tour of Hairspray. What drew you back to the show?

The show really helped me get through my Stage 3 breast cancer diagnosis. The songs in Hairspray are uplifting in so many different ways, and performing in the show helped me not to focus on the chemotherapy. One of the songs that I sing, and which I especially drew strength from, was I Know Where I Have Been. The words already had so much meaning to me, and throughout the tour helped me to stay positive and keep thinking of brighter days! It was very therapeutic and just what I needed. It's also very important for me to be able to do the tour again because I've got some personal demons to deal with. When I was last on tour with Hairspray and was being treated for the cancer, there was

one place I couldn't do at all - Venue Cymru in Llandudno. But we're going back to it this time round. I drove there from our previous venue, Milton Keynes, on the Sunday, woke up on the Monday and couldn't walk. I was just stuck there for a few days while everyone else was doing the show. I was so upset! So yeah, I'm excited about this second tour for so many reasons!

You showed amazing courage by continuing to tour with Hairspray while battling cancer. How important is it to you to keep inspiring and educating others?

It's very important. If I hadn't spoken to somebody about the lump in the first place, I could be in a completely different situation right now. Talking is key, so if my talking about cancer makes even just one person get checked out, then I'll have succeeded.

Does this latest tour feel different to the last one?

Oh my god, yes! It's amazing! I thought Drew McOnie's choreography was a lot the first time round, (well, it was a lot the first time round!), but this time round, it's almost like, choreography-wise, we're doing what we did the first time and adding the same amount again! I'm finding it a bit harder this time round to get up to speed because I obviously haven't been doing much exercise over the last year. But the more we run it, the easier it's becoming - it's the best all singing all-dancing workout ever! I'm absolutely loving it, the cast are so talented and I'm enjoying getting to know everyone. It's so much fun and the energy levels are so high, from the start all the way through. From Good Morning

Baltimore to You Can't Stop The Beat, there's just so much going on. This fantastic new cast are all just on it. Within two weeks, we were doing act one and had staggered act two. By week three, we were on just getting it into our bodies. The pace is so much quicker than it was last time - my brain doesn't have time to switch off! We saw the new set design and it looks amazing - bigger, brighter and beautifuller! That's not a word, I know, but I'm making it up!

For anyone not familiar with the show, how would you describe it in three words?

Bigger, brighter, beautifuller! Audiences can expect energy, a lot of laughs and some fantastic songs played by a phenomenal band. At the same time, they can listen to the show's message, which I think is so current. I know I'm sounding like a 1960s hippie, but I just wish everyone would spread the love and get on with one another. Put your differences aside because there will always be differences of opinion - that's what makes us individuals. I think what this show embodies is the message that, no matter what your race, size or opinions, in the end it's all about coming together and showing a united front. Hopefully people will come out of the show thinking, 'Okay, that's given me food for thought as well as a great night's entertainment'.

What's your favourite moment or song in the show?

I just love You Can't Stop The Beat because it goes through so many different gear changes. In rehearsals it's known as Beat One Beat Two and Beat Three. As I said, I like the way it just brings us all together.



Is there a city on the tour you're most looking forward to visiting?

I'm really looking forward to going back to Belfast because that was where I auditioned for The X Factor. Originally I was going to visit the Giant's Causeway, but I never got there, as the audition happened and kinda took over my last day there. I'm hoping this time round I'll be able to go.

Hairspray is set in the 1960s, but if you could've been born in a different era, which one would it be?

I love period dramas - especially the style and fashion tassels and beads etc. I'm such a magpie because I love all the shiny things - sequins, beads and diamonds! So that's the era I'd love to be in. Fabulous costumes! Fabulous dresses! Fabulous headdresses!

What's your all-time favourite musical?

All the ones I've been in! Aside from those, I did enjoy Motown, The Bodyguard and Les Misérables. I cried watching Memphis and I absolutely loved Jersey Boys! There were songs in there that I didn't realise were originated by the Jersey Boys. I was singing the whole way through!

What inspired you to go into musical theatre?

I was born and raised in the church. There were a lot of times when we didn't have microphones, so we had to project,

so I grew up singing in a lot of big spaces. I'm drawn to the musicals, but it was Sharon Osbourne who told me that she'd been approached by the producers of Chicago The Musical when I was on X Factor in 2005, to see if I'd go for an audition. So that was how I landed my first role in musical theatre. It's such a pleasure. I feel so lucky to be able to perform in all these beautiful theatres

What was the first musical you saw?

Thriller Live. My friend and fellow X Factor teammate Maria was in the show

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

I will always say that my greatest achievement in life is my children - they're a real blessing. The highlight of my career would have to be recording my debut album, Bring It Back. I'm very proud of the songs I wrote, and I feel it shows all sides of my personality

You've starred in some brilliant shows. Are there any other musical roles you'd love to play?

I really want to originate a role. I would love to play Ursula if it ever came to the West End!

If you could dance on any TV show, apart from The Gorry Collins Show, which one would it be? And what would be your signature dance move?

Strictly Come Dancing with the jitterbug

The stage show of Hairspray was based on the 1988 movie of the same title. If you could adapt any other 1980s film into a musical, which one would you choose?

Coming To America. It's a very funny film!

How did X Factor prepare you for the industry?

I really enjoyed the show. There were a lot of rehearsals before each Saturday night live show, so you always had to be on your game. It was exciting and challenging at the same time. It wasn't very different to the stage, with the live shows being in front of a studio audience. I think it really did prepare me mentally for this industry. A lot of people say to me, 'Don't you get fed up doing the same show night after night?' But it's not the same show every night because the audience is different. The cast feed off the energy of the audience.

Hairspray The Musical shows at Birmingham Hippodrome from Monday 9 to Saturday 14 October. To book tickets, visit birminghamhippodrome.com or contact the theatre's box office on 0844 338 5000.





activate



Wide Range of LGBT Sports Activities

We offer a wide range of sports activities for LGBT people, including swimming, football, basketball, badminton, tennis, table tennis, and more. We also have a dedicated section for LGBT people who are interested in fitness and health. We have a wide range of equipment and weights.

Talk To Us!

We are always looking for new members to join our teams. If you are interested in joining, please contact us via email or phone. We will be happy to help you get started.

Click on Services, then fitness at www.birminghamlgbt.org.uk





HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Might we have found the perfect holiday destination for you to enjoy in 2018?...

Ah, holidays! There's nothing better than taking a bit of time off work, boarding a plane and heading abroad for a week of sun, sea, sand and sightseeing!

Everybody has different ideas about what constitutes their perfect holiday. For some, it might be a quiet week spent lounging on the beach, basking in the glorious Mediterranean sun and topping up that tan...

For others, the hustle and bustle of a pavement-pounding city break in one of Europe's famous capitals might be exactly the kind of vacation that ticks all the boxes.

Whatever your destination, you'll definitely need to find somewhere to stay - and it might well be that misterbandb.com is the service you turn to when sorting out your accommodation.

The hugely popular online facility was founded four years ago and helps to connect the global gay community. It enables gay men with spare rooms, apartments or houses to rent them out to holidaymakers who fancy something a little different from the experience of staying in a traditional hotel.

Knowing that you're booking accommodation with someone who's also LGBT not only ensures

you feel welcome wherever you're staying, it also helps connect you with the local gay community, no matter where in the world you are.

You can check out available properties - or maybe list your own - at misterbandb.com.

In the meantime, check out the following few pages, in which we list our top-10 travel destinations across Europe and beyond. In the process, we recommend some great accommodation for you, to help make the most of your time abroad.

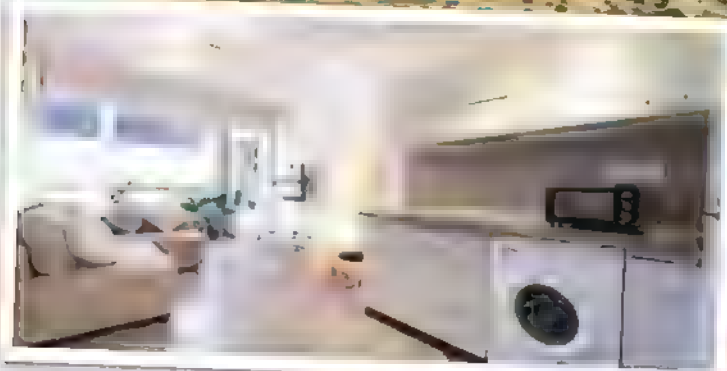
Wherever you choose for your 2018 getaway, have fun, stay safe and have a cocktail for us!

TOP 3 EUROPEAN GAY DESTINATIONS!

Maspalomas, Gran Canaria

Sergio is using misterbandb to rent out his Gran Canaria apartment to people heading for 'the gay capital of Europe'. Here, you're pretty much certain to get sun and hot temperatures throughout most of the year. A fully modernised apartment suitable for four people, Sergio's place is located 100 metres away from the famous Yumbo Centre in Maspalomas, which boasts a plethora of gay bars and shops.

The apartment features a fully furnished living room with open-plan kitchen, ideal for anybody wanting to do a bit of cooking. Renting the whole apartment ensures complete privacy during your stay and is ideal for a break with friends or family.



Sitges, Spain



Approximately an hour's train journey from Barcelona, the breathtakingly beautiful historic town of Sitges, located on the southern coast of Spain, is popular with many a gay traveller. Erez's first-floor apartment, which is suitable for four people and features two double bedrooms, a kitchen, living room and balcony, is in a fantastic location - just across the road from the beach and a short stroll from all the bars, restaurants, clubs, shops and cafes. Getting to Sitges is easy and relatively cheap. A flight to Barcelona and a simple train transfer or boat trip along the coast will get you there in no time.

Starting from €99 per night based on four people sharing.

Check it out at misterbandb.com/rooms/71812

Mykonos, Greece



If you're looking for a scenic, sun kissed getaway, give the luscious Greek island of Mykonos a go!

Nikos is offering his apartment to rent. Suitable for four people, this fully equipped, recently renovated, impressively elegant and appealingly comfortable studio is located right in the heart of the town.

A few minutes away from the museums, banks, restaurants, bars, local supermarket and bus station, it's an ideal place to enjoy a chilled-out holiday with friends.

Starting from €60 per night based on four people sharing.

Check it out at misterbandb.com/rooms/61245

Berlin, Germany



Martin's recently renovated apartment boasts an excellent location in the trendy district of Kreuzberg. Berlin's best bars, art galleries and restaurants are all within walking distance, ensuring there's culture, history and partying to enjoy, right on the doorstep! The apartment features an innovative loft bedroom design that sleeps up to four people. Stylish and modern furniture features throughout.

Starting from €125 per night based on four people sharing.

Check it out at misterbandb.com/rooms/110332

Key West, Florida

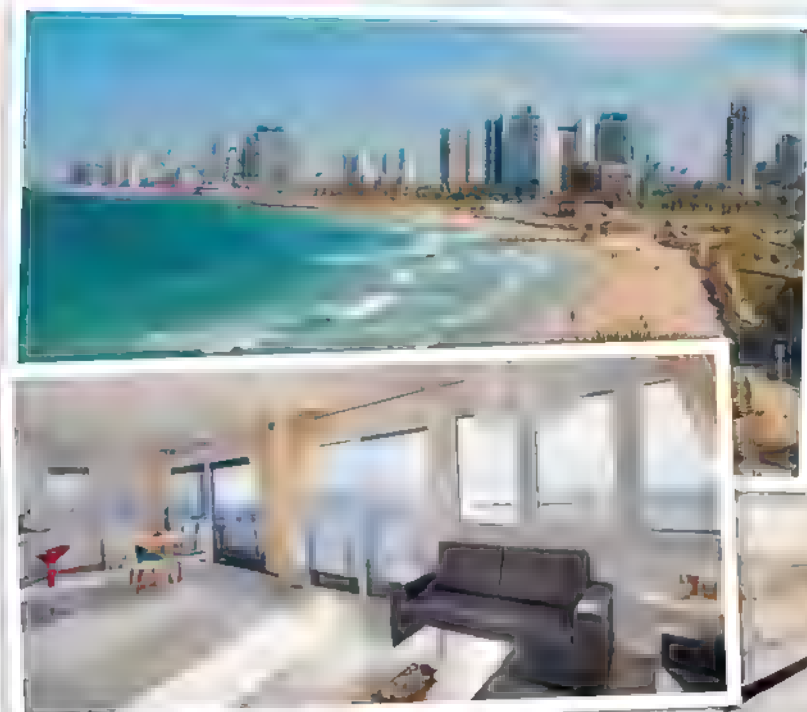


Roy's home in the luxurious area of Key West, Florida, close to golden beaches and the crisp blue sea, really is a dream place to stay when visiting the good ol' US of A! Casa Paradiso is a spacious three bedroom, three bathroom home in a beautifully landscaped gated community. It features two kingsize beds, a decent kitchen, an outdoor grill and a salt water pool. And if you fancy a wander, the town centre is just a 10-minute stroll away.

Starting from €300 per night based on four people sharing.

Check it out at misterbandb.com/rooms/42905

Tel-Aviv, Israel



Guy's sea-view apartment in Tel-Aviv sleeps six and is a dream to stay at. The area is known for its vibrant night life, delicious eateries and cool coffee shops. The apartment overlooks some of the most beautiful beaches in the country. Extremely spacious and sunny, it has two bedrooms, an open-space living room with a fully equipped kitchen, a dining area and a 12-metre balcony with a long breakfast bar from which you can enjoy a panoramic view of the beach.

Starting from €250 per night based on four people sharing.

Check it out at misterbandb.com/rooms/31123



misterbandb.com

There's no place like home,
except when you travel with
misterb&b and connect with
the global gay community

misterb&b

STAY LIKE A GAY LOCAL

“ This was my first time using
misterb&b and I could not have
asked for a better experience.
Tony was exceptional from
pre-arrival to departure. I would
definitely recommend his place to
anyone looking to experience the
best of Paris. PS: Tony is quite the
cook. I was lucky enough to
experience one of his unique
specialties: Cheeseburgers :) ”

Andreas - San Francisco

||| [View all reviews](#)

Amsterdam, Holland



Amsterdam is full of history, culture and cuisine. Mark is renting out his beautiful, fully renovated luxury apartment on the Amstel River in the centre of the city. It's 20 metres from the cruise boats, 50 metres from the Flower Market and 150 metres from Rembrandt Square. All other tourist attractions, including the Hermitage, Royal Palace, Rijksmuseum and Waterlooplein Market, are also within walking distance. There are also lots of great terraces, restaurants, bars and clubs in the immediate vicinity - not to mention the city's vibrant gay area!

Starting from €235 per night based on four people sharing.

Check it out at misterbandb.com/rooms/100598

Ibiza, Spain

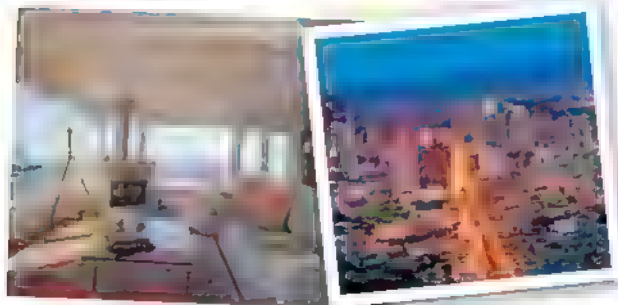


Alex's luxury villa with private swimming pool in Salinas, Ibiza, is a dream place to stay whilst on holiday on the White Isle. The hilltop apartment, which sleeps four people, faces the Salines and the beautiful beach Escavalets. Ibiza may be renowned for its bars, clubs and big name DJs, but if you want to escape the hustle and bustle, then this looks like the ideal retreat. We can well imagine lounging in the infinity pool, sipping on a large glass of local wine as we watch the sun set...

Starting from €180 per night based on four people sharing.

Check it out at misterbandb.com/rooms/24574

San Francisco, USA



San Francisco is often hailed the gay capital of the world, so if you're keen to visit, this is the luxury property to stay at. The fabulous Russian Hill home has the most breathtaking views of the city, including Alcatraz, the Golden Gate Bridge, Angel Island and the Marin Headlands. This three bedroom multi level home sleeps six people and is the definition of luxury. The main living area and gourmet kitchen offer spectacular unparalleled views atop the private deck.

Starting from €800 per night based on four people sharing.

Check it out at misterbandb.com/rooms/67279

Sydney, Australia



If you want to travel a bit further afield, we strongly recommend a trip Down Under to the beautiful city of Sydney, complete with its bright white beaches and red hot temperatures. Home to the world famous Mardi Gras, the city is as diverse as they come! Hermie's two bed city centre apartment is a great place to stay. Whether it's for a couple of weeks or just a few days, you'll be close to everything that Sydney has to offer. Sadly, there's no BBQ for you to put another shrimp on!

Starting from €100 per night based on four people sharing.

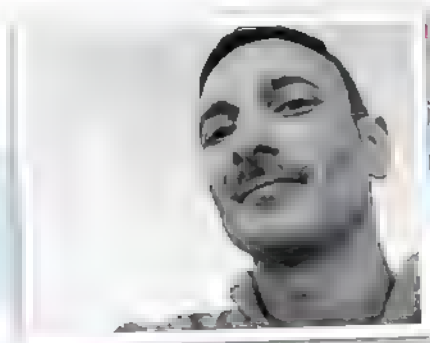
Check it out at misterbandb.com/rooms/113508



What are your favourite holiday destinations?

We asked three people from the Midlands LGBT community what theirs were...

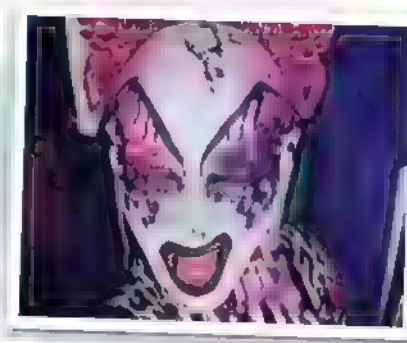
David Viney
Birmingham LGBT,
Birmingham



Cindy Edwards
L Fest organiser,
Shrewsbury



Twiggy
Drag Queen at Missing,
Birmingham

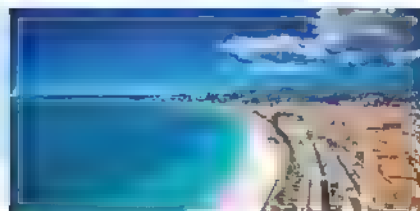


1. Berlin, Germany

Modern, artistic, fascinating, with recent history and great attractions. Truly vast LGBT culture and nightlife.

2. Nice, France

Classic Riviera resort. Charming, elegant and with an edge. Good nightlife.



3. San Francisco, USA

What can I say? Eclectic, laid back and boasting beautiful architecture. The Castro is a must...

4. Pembrokeshire, UK

St Brides Bay area. Stunning, rugged coastal region with walks, wildlife and quiet unspoiled beaches.

5. London, UK

One of the world's great cities and on our doorstep. Why wouldn't you?! Culture, shopping, nightlife and more.

1. L Fest Del Mar, Costa Blanca, Spain

Home to our Spanish lesbian festival in June that sees 200 women flock to a small coastal resort on the Costa Blanca for a big party!

2. Lesbos, Greece

Do you spot a theme here?! A relaxed quaint resort still very typical Greek village, always home to many lesbians but particularly in the festival week in September.

3. Key West, Florida

Although only there a few hours on a stop on our Olivia women's cruise, it was so open with rainbows everywhere! We instantly felt at home.

4. Ibiza, Spain

White buildings, white parties and big white boats! Head to the old town for a more Spanish holiday away from all the 18-30s!

5. Cambodia

For something completely different and away from all the backpackers in Thailand, you'll find amazing islands, beautiful food and people.

1. Sydney, Australia

A long way to go from the UK but worth it once you're there. Stay in Darling Harbour or Chinatown - ideal for walking to most hotspots.

2. Tel Aviv, Israel

Incredible city where they party like it's their last day on earth. And what with being surrounded by countries that hate them, it seems a reasonable assumption!

3. Toronto, Canada

The vibrancy and skyline of New York but without the pollution, tourists or crime. Ideal to get to Niagara Falls for the day, too.

4. Singapore

The most built-up but also the cleanest and most ecologically aware country I've visited. I left calling it Singapore.

5. Krakow, Poland

Easy and inexpensive to stay in and to get around. Stay on or near Długa Ulica (Street). And take that trip to Auschwitz while you're there.

SHROPSHIRE RAINBOW

Showcasing the best in LGBT films

Following on from its success in previous years, the Shropshire Rainbow Film Festival makes a welcome return this month, bigger and better than ever.

Running from Friday 6 to Sunday 8 October, the main festival takes place at Shrewsbury's Old Market Hall cinema and showcases nine LGBT movies

The event also features a whole host of short films - showing on both days at the same venue.

In addition to all the great movies, there are Q&As, discussions and visits from some of the films' directors ...

To book tickets for festival events, visit www.rainbowfilmfestival.org.uk or www.oldmarkethall.co.uk

God's Own Country

Friday 6 October, 8pm

Spring. Yorkshire, England. Johnny Saxby, a 25-year-old sheep farmer, has sacrificed going away to college or getting a job in town to run the family farm for ailing father Martin (Ian Hart) and stoic grandmother Deirdre (Gemma Jones). He numbs the daily frustration of his desolate life with binge drinking and casual sex. As lambing season approaches, Martin hires a Romanian migrant worker, Gheorghe, to assist his already exhausted son. Johnny bitterly resents Gheorghe, stubbornly insisting that he can cope on his own - but Gheorghe soon proves that not only does he understand the farming life, he also understands Johnny...

Director: Francis Lee, UK, 2017



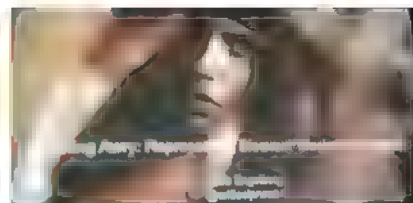
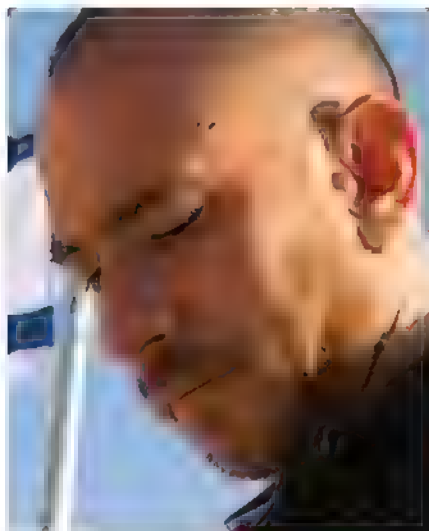
Who's Gonna Love Me Now?

Saturday 7 October, 11am

Saar is a HIV-positive gay man taking refuge in London from the religious kibbutz in which he grew up in Israel.

Ever since being diagnosed with HIV, he has craved the love of his family - a family struggling with fear and prejudice. Saar and the rest of the London Gay Men's Chorus provide a glorious soundtrack to this moving documentary about the power of forgiveness and the pull which 'home' continues to exert, no matter how far away we go. The screening is followed by a Q&A with Saar.

Director: Tomer Heymann, Barak Heymann, Alexander Bodin Saphir (co-director), Israel/UK, 2016



Looking Awry

Saturday 7 October, 4pm

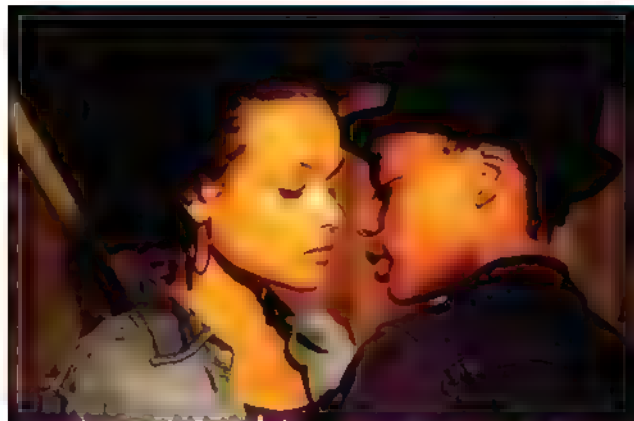
When do we read a film character as bisexual? How can a character's bisexuality be communicated? What stereotypes are at play in these representations, and what purpose do they serve? What is the impact of the scarcity of bisexual representations on bisexual people's lives? This eye-opening film considers cinema's representations of bisexuality.

Director: Shallece Haas, USA, 2016

FILM FESTIVAL 2017...

from the UK and across the world

The Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury
Friday 6 - Sunday 8 October



While You Weren't Looking

Saturday 7 October, 5:30pm

Dez and Tern are a mixed-race couple and adoptive parents who've been married for 20 years. They are the trailblazing lesbians of the new South Africa. But have these freedoms guaranteed them happiness?

Director: Catherine Stewart, South Africa, 2015

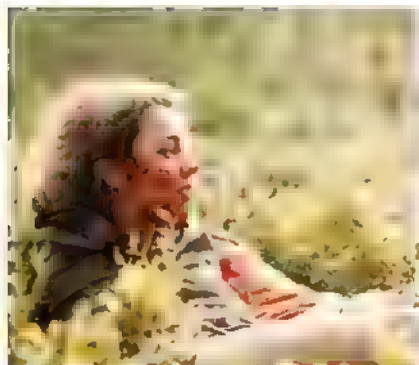


Tangerine

Saturday 7 October, 8pm

On hearing that Sin-Dee's pimp boyfriend hasn't been faithful during the 28 days she's been locked up, the sex worker and her best friend embark on a mission to find out the truth.

Director: Sean Baker, USA, 2015

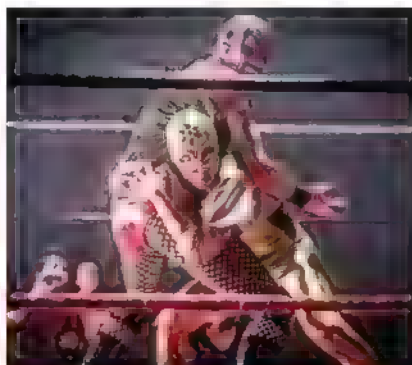


The Summer Of Sangailé

Sunday 9 October, 11am

At a summer aeronautical show near her parents' lakeside villa, Sangailé meets Auste, a local girl of the same age who lives life to the full.

Director: Alante Kavaite, France, 2015

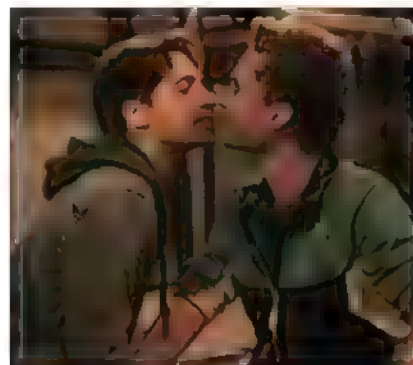


Signature Move

Sunday 9 October, 3 30pm

This hilarious and heartfelt movie takes a look at modern families and the complexities of love in its many forms.

Directors: Jennifer Reeder, USA, 2017



Théo & Hugo

Sunday 9 October, 6 30pm

Théo and Hugo encounter each other in a sex club, where their overwhelming desire creates an unexpected intimacy

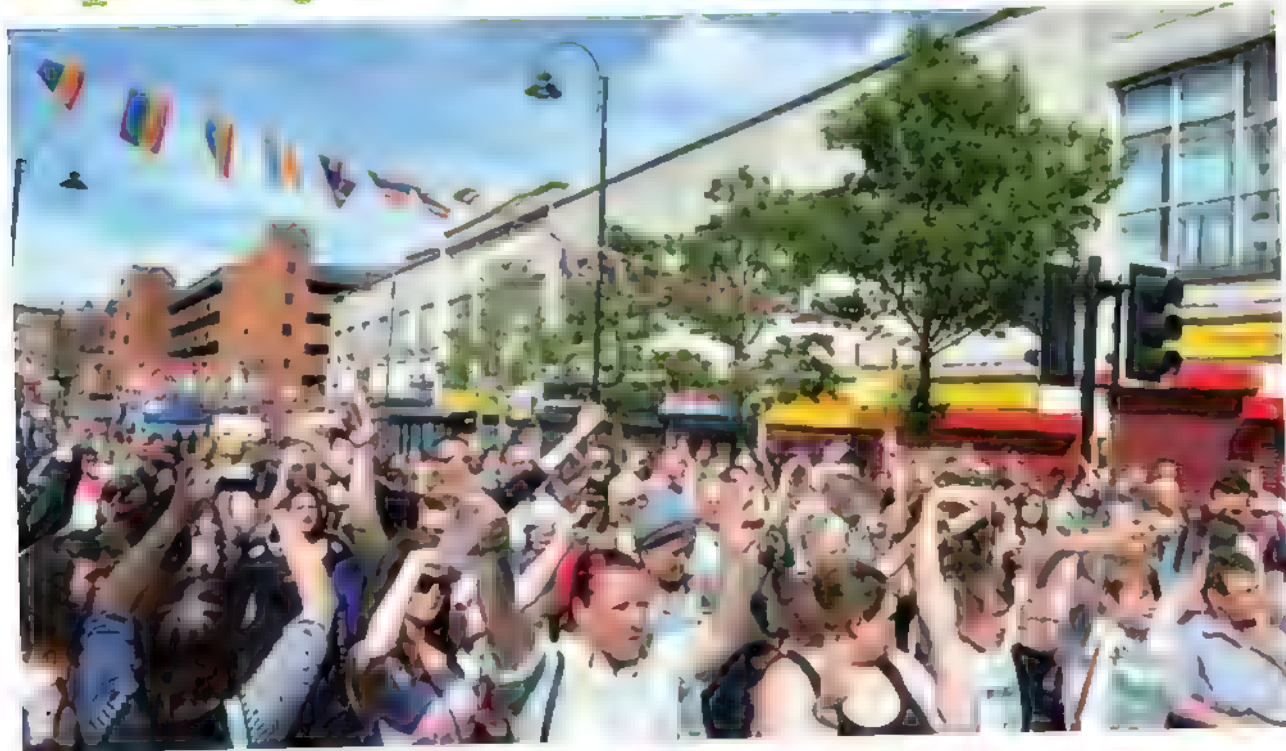
Director: Olivier Ducastel & Jacques Martineau, France, 2016

For short-film listings, visit www.rainbowfilmfestival.co.uk

SUMMER OF PRIDE

Your guide to this month's LGBT Pride festivals across the Midlands...

Wolves Pride: Celebrating equality in the Black Country



Saturday 30 September
Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton
facebook.com/pridewolverhampton

After a two-year absence, Wolverhampton Pride is making a welcome return to the city's events calendar this month - and it's promising to be the biggest and best yet! The festival, which takes place on Saturday 30 September, is being organised by Wolverhampton City Council in partnership with Wolves gay bar Gorgeous and its radio station, Gorgeous FM. Gorgeous FM will host the main stage whilst broadcasting the event live. Gay bar Gorgeous will be home to Pride's official dance arena. The festival is open to everyone and celebrates LGBT equality and diversity. Attractions include live music, a family area, community stalls and street food & drink stalls.

Dance Arena line-up includes...



Ill Phil (above), Wayne H (top right)
and Lisa Sharred (bottom right).
Plus many more!

WOLVES PRIDE

LIVE MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT PERFORMANCES

FAMILY AREA 0-6 YRS FREE SEATING

PLUS 10% OFF ALL SIGNS 150,000+ FREE

SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER

WULFRUNA ST & ST PETER'S CAR PARK | WOLVERHAMPTON | WV1 1SE

GET YOUR FREE TICKETS FROM: WWW.WOLVESPRIDE.CO.UK

WOLVESPRIDE

SUPPORTED BY

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL



UNIVERSITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON

 gorgeous

 GORGEOUSFM

X Factor stars Union J set to rock the crowd at Leicester Pride 2017

Saturday 2 September
Victoria Park, Leicester
leicesterpride.com

After a lot of uncertainty surrounding this year's event, Leicester Pride 2017 is indeed happening! With funding secured from De Montfort University, the event is set to rock the city's Victoria Park on

the first Saturday of the month. Opening proceedings is the annual procession through the city's streets. Starting at Curve Theatre, the parade will snake its way up to the park, where X Factor boyband Union J and world number one female DJ Lisa Lashes will be on hand to entertain the crowds

The festival is free to attend and great fun for all the family, with stalls, bars and the fantastic Billy Bates funfair all contributing towards a great atmosphere



Derbyshire Pride set to be 'the biggest and best yet'

Saturday 9 September
Curzon Street, Derby
facebook.com/DerbyshireLGBTPrize

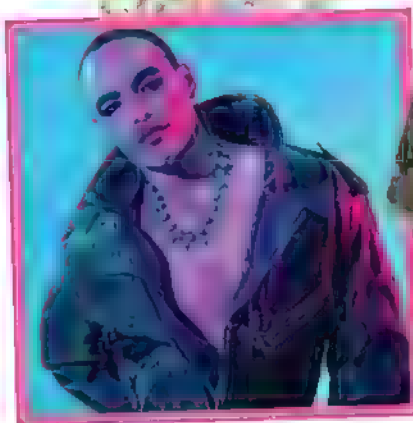
Derbyshire LGBT Pride returns this month, with organisers confident that the 2017 event will prove to be the biggest and best yet.

The 9 September festival is marking the 50th anniversary of the partial decriminalisation of homosexuality.

The event begins with a parade through the city streets, starting out at 11am from St Peter's Churchyard (at its junction with St Peter's Street). The parade will make its way over to Curzon Street, where the action kicks off at midday.

The main stage is hosted by Soraya Vivian and Miss Diva Dib Dab.

Contributing performers include X Factor's Freddy Parker, Cleo Higgins from The Voice, Nikki French, X Factor's Seann Miley Moore, Beeyone, Cherished, Tee Bello, Georgia Box, #Warriors and Zumba Lana. Market stalls, food & drink stalls and a kids' zone also feature on the day.



SATURDAY
9TH
SEPTEMBER

DERBYSHIRE
LGBT+
Pride



PRIDE KICKS OFF AT
12PM ON CURZON STREET

2017

MAIN STAGE HOSTED BY INTERNATIONAL STAR **SORAYA VIVIAN** AND CO-HOSTED BY **MISS DIVA DIB DAB**

XFACTOR FREDDY PARKER AND CLEO HIGGINS FROM THE VOICE

ACTS

NICKI FRENCH, BEEYONCE, CHERISHED, TEE BELLO
GEORGIA BOX, #WARRIORS, ZUMBA LANA, RAZZAMATAZ THEATRE SCHOOL



LOTTERY FUNDED



DERBY CITY COUNCIL



The Crown Inn
Curzon St, Derby

#SeeQueerlyNow

EF errol flynn
filmhouse

NORTHAMPTON Q-FILM WEEKENDER

LGBTQ+ TALES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

FRI 20 – SUN 22 OCTOBER



The Errol Flynn Filmhouse presents a three-day festival celebrating heroes of queer cinema and showcasing LGBTQ+ themed classics, new releases, documentaries, animation and short films from around the world. With special guests Emma Frankland, Lisa Gornick and Scottee.

WEEKEND PASS £50 FOR 11 FILMS

One hour by train from Birmingham or London



@ErrolFlynnFilm



ErrolFlynnFilmhouse

Box Office 01604 624811

www.errolflynnfilmhouse.com

Film Hub

Central East

Q-FILM
NORTHAMPTON



Audience
Network

The weekend is made possible by grant funding from Film Audience Network.

Discover worlds of magic
and music



barclaycard
arena
Birmingham

18th – 29th Oct 2017

0844 338 8000* or 0844 847 2255*

theticketfactory.com

*Calls cost a maximum of 7 pence per minute plus your phone company's access charge.
Calls from mobiles may be higher and are dependent on your mobile company's charges and tariffs.



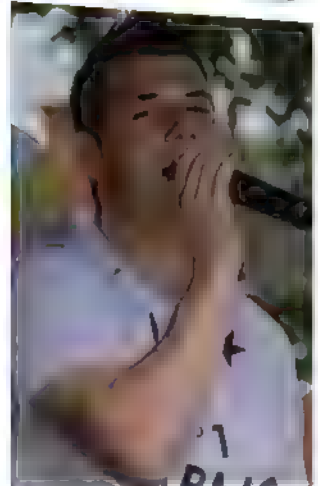
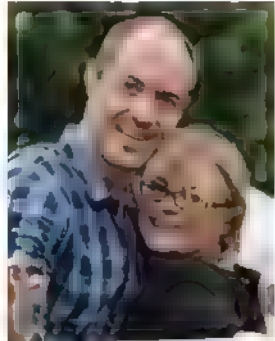
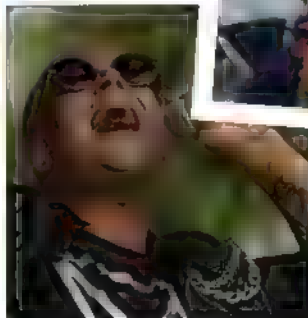
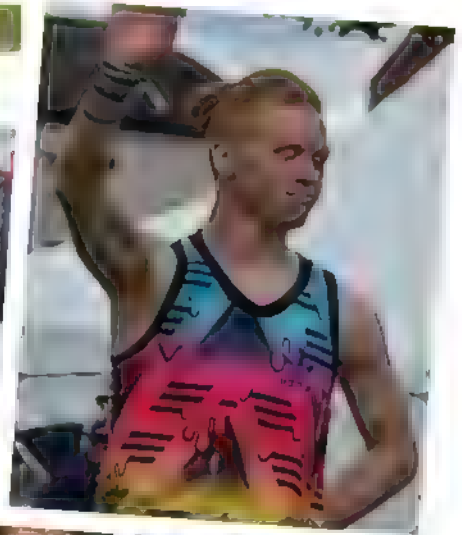
ARRIVE EARLY FOR THE *Fit to Be Tied* PRE-SHOW FEATURING ZOOPOLES

A day to be proud of at Warwickshire Pride

Another year and another Warwickshire Pride has been and gone! But boy, what a day it was!

Held in Leamington Spa's scenic Pump Room Gardens, the event featured two stages, community and market stalls - and of course, the obligatory food and drink stalls. Entertainment came thick and fast with the headline act being '90s popstar Kavana (below).

Congratulations Warwickshire Pride! You rocked it!



What's On

Mon 1 - Sun 10 September



Danny Beard Is Back in Brum!

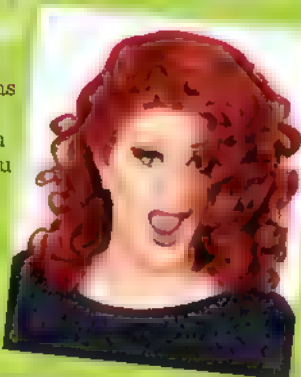
If you're a fan of Britain's Got Talent star Danny Beard, you're in luck - he's appearing at Eden Bar not once but twice this month! If you haven't caught up with scouser Danny yet, then you really need to get yourself along to at least one of the two dates - preferably both!

Saturday 2 September & Thursday 14 September - Eden Bar, Birmingham

Double the Fanny!

Drag queen Fanny Burns is strutting her stuff at two Midlands venues on the same night! So if you just can't get enough Fanny, you know what you need to do!

Friday 1 September - The Yard, Coventry & Eden Bar, Birmingham



Queefa's Quiz at Missing Bar!

Join us for a quiz night at Missing Bar! The quiz is held every Friday night and is a great way to spend the evening. The quiz is held at Missing Bar, Birmingham. The quiz is held every Friday night and is a great way to spend the evening.

Sunday 5 & Sunday 17 September - Missing Bar, Birmingham

Party with Miss Marty at Shrewsbury's C:21

If you fancy a Monday night out, then pop over to Shrewsbury's C:21 for its Fabulous gay night. The first Monday of the month is live cabaret night, with Brum's very own Miss Marty taking to the stage on the 4th.

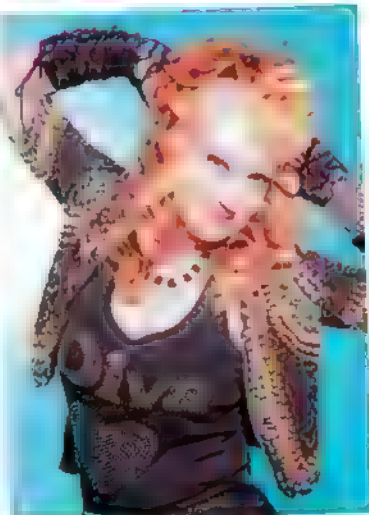
Monday 4 September - C:21, Shrewsbury

Friday fun at The Village with Kelly Wilde

Kickstarting a month of Friday night cabaret at award-winning gay venue The Village Inn is Kelly Wilde.

Not only is there fantastic cabaret to enjoy, there's also a host of DJs across the night and plenty of great drinks offers. Plus, you can stay and party right through until 6am!

Friday 1 September - The Village Inn, Birmingham



THE VILLAGE INN

FRIDAY 1ST
**KELLY
WILDE**

FRIDAY 29TH
**SANDRA
LONDON**

FRIDAY 8TH
**VICKY
VIVACIOUS**

FRIDAY 15TH
TOPSIE REDFERN

FRIDAY 22ND
**SON OF
A TUTU**

SEPTEMBER

THE VILLAGE INN

WWW.VILLAGEBIRMINGHAM.CO.UK

<p>EVERY MONDAY</p> <p>WITH RUELNY</p> <p>£1 DRINKS £100</p>	<p>EVERY TUESDAY</p> <p>TIME TUNNEL</p>	<p>KARAOKE</p> <p>EVERY WEDNESDAY</p> <p>WITH CHARLOTTE THE HARLOTTE</p> <p>SHE CAN'T SING FOR SHIT</p>	<p>MISS MARTA VS MISS THUNDERPUSS!</p>	<p>THE VILLAGE LOBBY</p> <p>EVERY FRIDAY</p> <p>8AM SATURDAY</p>	<p>EVERY SUNDAY</p> <p>BIRMINGHAM'S NEWEST LIP SYNC CHALLENGE</p> <p>£1000 GRAND PRIZE</p>
---	--	--	---	---	---

Missing

LaQueefa's

SAUCY SUNDAYS

**DOUBLE
CABARET**
9PM & 10.30PM



Lets Get

QUIZICAL!?

**DEAL
OR NAH?**

COME AND JOIN
"QUEEFA'S QUIZ!"

FIRST & 3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

FROM 5PM CASH & PRIZES TO BE WON!

£2 PER PERSON

UPTO 5 PER TEAM

AND HALF TIME GAME

"DEAL OR NAAAH"

What's On

Mon 11 - Sun 17 September



Queeny's Not Quite A Quiz debuts in Brum!

Here at Zone we love a good quiz, so we're hugely excited to see that Queeny is set to debut a brand new one. Her Not Quite A Quiz quiz takes place at The Loft every other Wednesday. Costing £2 per person, it runs from 8pm until 11pm. Oh, and there's great food to be had too!

Wednesday 13 & Wednesday 27 September - The Loft, Birmingham

Weekly karaoke at Coventry's newest gay bar!

Up for a bit of a midweek sing song? Then be sure to head along to Coventry's newest gay venue, The Yard. There, you'll be joined by Minnie & Jupiter from 8pm onwards, catering for all your karaoke needs. There's even a free shot for every singer!

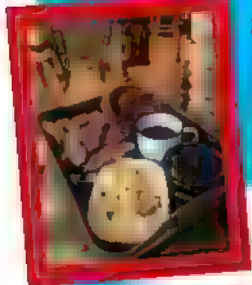
**Every Thursday
The Yard, Coventry**



Grab a great roast at The Loft

Look no further than The Loft for your hangover soothing Sunday lunch! With an impressive selection of meats available, you'll be hard pressed to find a better offer!

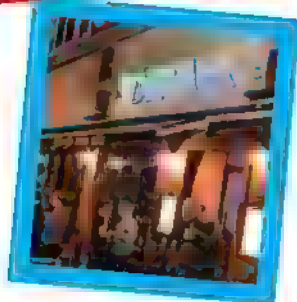
**Every Sunday -
The Loft, Birmingham**



Cocktail time at Sidewalk!

Fancy joining us for a cocktail or several at Sidewalk? They're two-for-one from midday till 8pm every day - or all day on a Monday! Which one will you choose?

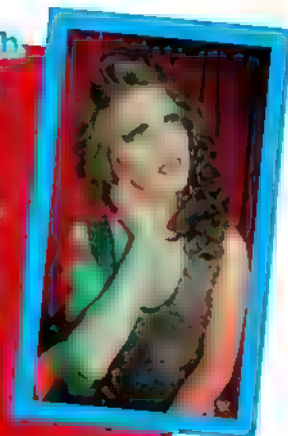
**Every day at Sidewalk,
Birmingham**



A night of cabaret with Topsy Redfern at the Village Inn!

Continuing with its September line-up of Friday night cabaret, The Village Inn welcomes Topsy Redfern to the stage on the 15th. Expect a great show, with lots of laughs to boot! It's the perfect way to start the weekend.

**Friday 15 September -
The Village Inn, Birmingham**



Morrissey Disco returns to Eden Bar!

If you're a huge fan of music from Morrissey, then there's a whole night dedicated to it in the Marquee of Birmingham's Eden Bar this month! Let's party!

**Saturday 16 September -
Eden, Birmingham**



What's On

Fri 18 - Sun 24 September



Glitter Shit honours the internet

Glitter Shit, the club night that's growing bigger with every event, honours all things glitter, freaks and '90s beats. This month sees the sparkling event pay homage to the internet with Glittershit.com. Think MySpace, Bebo, Faceparty and dial up tones.

Friday 22 September - The Nightingale, Birmingham

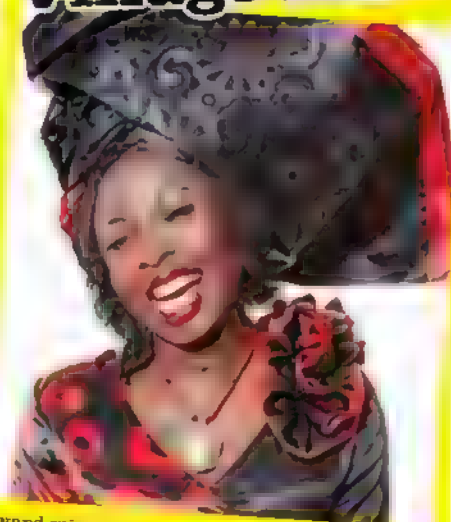
La Voix brings showbiz to Brum

La Voix is a class act, as evidenced by her semi final appearance on Britain's Got Talent. If you haven't seen one of her fantastic shows yet, put that right by popping along to Eden Bar this very month.

Thursday 21 September - Eden Bar, Birmingham



Son of a Tutu at The Village Inn



Award-winning gay venue The Village Inn hosts Son Of A Tutu live on stage on the 22nd of the month. Add some great drinks offers to the Drag Idol winner's show and you're in for a top night out!

**Friday 22 September -
The Village Inn, Birmingham**

Free entry and £1 drinks at The Gale!



If you're looking for a great night out, The Nightingale in Birmingham is one of the best places to be. And for the summer holidays (ish), it's autumn - unless you're a uni student - but keep that to yourself! They're offering free admission before midnight every Saturday! There are also drinks from £1 all night! See you on the dancefloor!

**Every Saturday
The Nightingale, Birmingham**

Leather Social at Birmingham gay bar

Are you a fan of all things leather?...

You are?... Then this is the event for you! The Leather Social returns to Birmingham's Eden Bar from 6pm on Sunday 24 September, offering a friendly, relaxed atmosphere in which lovers of leather and their admirers can connect. Got some leather? What are you waiting for?!

Sunday 24 September - Eden, Birmingham

We are open every day from 2pm

**SEPTEMBER
ARTISTES**

eden

**THE BEST CABARET
EVERY MONTH**

**FRI
1st**

FANNY BURNS

**SAT
2nd**

DANNY BEARD

**SAT
9th**

LIVE BAND

Essential 80's

**THUR
14th**

DANNY BEARD

**SAT
16th**

MORRISSEY DISCO

**THUR
21st**

LA VOIX

**SUN
24th**

main bar

LEATHER SOCIAL

**SUN
24th**

marquee

FLUID FESTIVAL

**THUR
28th**

BRENDA LaBEAU

**FRI
29th**

MIDS BEARS

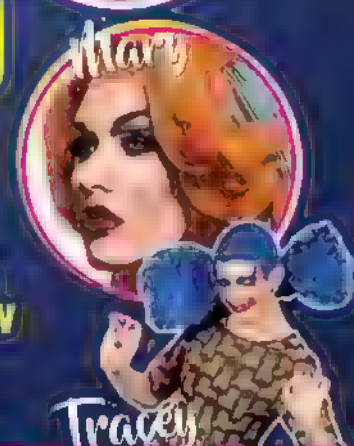
**SAT
30th**

MARY MAC

with this year's
DRAG IDOL WINNER
TRACEY BARLOW

**EVERY SAT
DJ DAN**

**EVERY FRI & SUN
KARAOKE & DISCO DJ NIKKI**



What's On

Mon 25 - Sat 30 September



Wolves gets ready for Jedward!

Pop twins Jedward appear at award winning Wolverhampton gay venue Gorgeous this month. One time X Factor stars Jon and Edward will be performing live on stage as part of the venue's freshers' party, designed to welcome new students to the city. The fun begins at 10pm

Saturday 30 September - Gorgeous, Wolverhampton

XXL is back!



The Midlands' biggest and boldest men-only club night, XXL, is back in its new slot - the last Friday of each month. With resident DJ and producer Paul Morrell providing the soundtrack to the night, the award winning event sees hundreds of men - from bears to cubs and everything in between - partying the night away.

Friday 29 September - The Core Club, Birmingham

Furry fun with MidsBears

If you're a bear, or a friend of the bear community at large, then pop down to MidsBears at Eden every fourth Friday of the month. It's a great night out and attracts a fab crowd. Check it out - you'll love it!

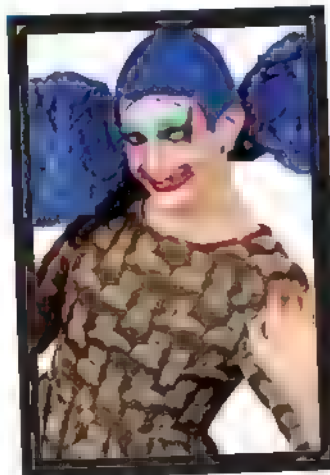
Friday 29 September - Eden, Birmingham



2 Kool 4 Skool

Expect some serious classroom mayhem this month as Birmingham bar Sidewalk hosts a '2 Kool 4 Skool' party. Customers are encouraged to dress in school uniform, with a prize for the best dressed.

Tracey Barlow debuts at Eden!



This year's Drag Idol winner, Tracey Barlow, is set to make her debut in Birmingham this month! The winner of the popular drag talent contest will be appearing alongside Eden Bar favourite Mary Mac. That's double the drag - and all for free! So if you're looking for a great night out, be sure to head along.

Saturday 30 September - Eden, Birmingham

**MARK AMES
PRESENTS**



**THE BIGGER BETTER
BOLDER BEARS CLUB**

XXL BIRMINGHAM
29th SEPTEMBER

10PM - 4AM £5 ENTRY

THE CORE CLUB

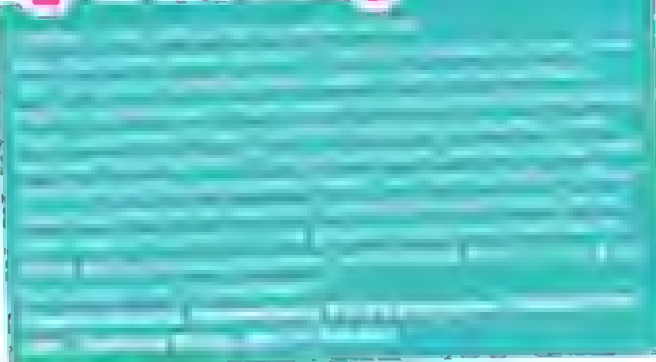
135 SHERLOCK ST, BIRMINGHAM B5 6NB

XXL-LONDON.COM

What's On



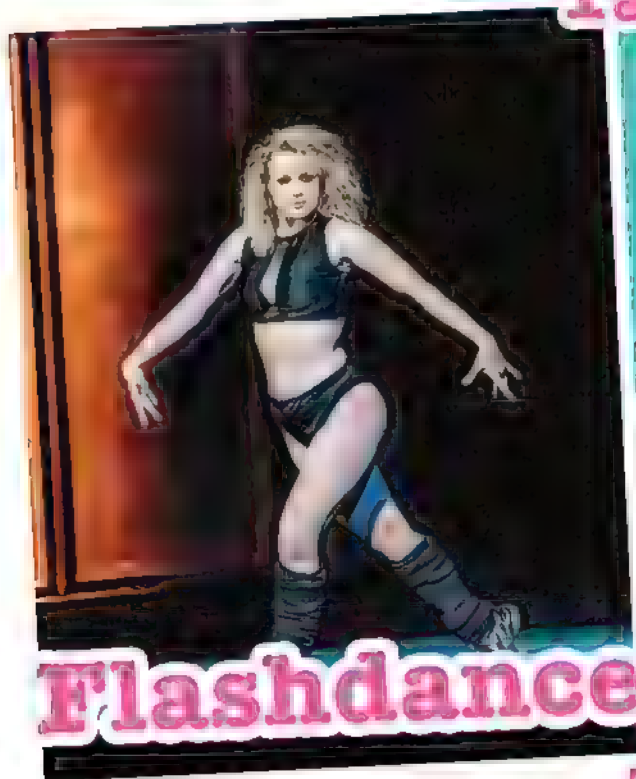
Tap Factory



Cult Figure: Kenneth Williams

Gay Carry On star and a man whose famously large nostrils would flare at the very thought of lowering his arse onto anybody else's toilet, Kenneth Williams was a comedian and raconteur par excellence. He was also a very odd man. Find out just how odd in the company of actor Colin Elmer

Sat 16 September - Lichfield Garrick



Flashdance

Hunky A1 favourite Ben Adams will be melting hearts and stirring other bits of the anatomy when he stars in this latest touring production of the popular 1980s movie of the same title.

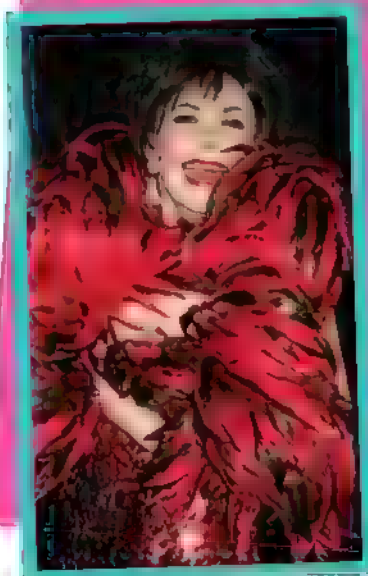
Telling the terrific tale of 18 year-old Alex, a welder by day and 'flashdancer' by night, the show features a raft of still memorable hits, including Maniac, Manhunt, Gloria, I Love Rock And Roll and the Academy Award winning What A Feeling.

For those who like a bit of plot with their high kicking dance routines (you're so demanding!), the show follows Alex's fortunes as she attempts to win a place at the prestigious Shipley Dance Academy. But will she get to achieve her ambition against all the odds?...

Strictly Come Dancing champion Joanne Clifton struts her magnificent stuff in a show that promises to be splendidly sweaty and sizzlingly sensational (just the way we like it!).

**Mon 25 - Sat 30 September - Regent Theatre,
Stoke-on-Trent & Mon 4 - Fri 9 December -
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham**

The Dame Shirley Basseley Story





Aladdin

'A delightful family show... absolutely astonishing'

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH



H BIRMINGHAM
HIPPODROME

0844 338 5000

birminghamhippodrome.com

BIRMINGHAM
ROYAL BALLET

3 - 7 October

© 2005 Birmingham Hippodrome
All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without permission in writing from the Birmingham Hippodrome.

Produced by Birmingham Hippodrome in association with the Birmingham Royal Ballet

Birmingham Hippodrome Arts Council England



22-24 SEPTEMBER 2017

BIRMINGHAM'S BIGGEST ARTS FESTIVAL RETURNS!



Join us for a festival in a weekend!

www.birminghamweekender.com

#BIRMINGHAMWEEKENDER

Gilbert & Gordon: Then All The World Could See How in Love We Are

It's a love story that's been in the making for a long time. Gilbert & Gordon, the duo who have been together since 1994, are back with a new album, *Then All The World Could See How in Love We Are*. The album is a collection of love songs, many of which were written by the duo themselves. It's a beautiful collection of songs that celebrate love in all its forms. The album is available on CD and vinyl.



John Legend

Legend by name and a legend in his own lifetime, John is a multi-platinum selling Oscar, Golden Globe and 10-time Grammy Award winning singer-songwriter (jeez, his mantelpiece must be buckling under the weight of all those glorious gongs!). He visits the Midlands to promote fifth studio album *Darkness And Light*.

Wed 20 September - Arena Birmingham



Beyond The Tracks

It's a love story that's been in the making for a long time. Beyond The Tracks, the duo who have been together since 1994, are back with a new album, *Beyond The Tracks*. The album is a collection of love songs, many of which were written by the duo themselves. It's a beautiful collection of songs that celebrate love in all its forms. The album is available on CD and vinyl.

A Place In The Sun Live

With the spectre of Brexit now casting its dark shadow across our fair land, how are we expected to get thoroughly wound up by Johnny Foreigner now that we're no longer really in Europe? By buying a home on the continent, that's how! Get along to this ever-popular annual show and find out how to bag yourself a beaut of a property on the other side of the Channel - or maybe even further afield if you fancy going completely and utterly crazy.

Fri 22 - Sun 24 September - NEC, Birmingham



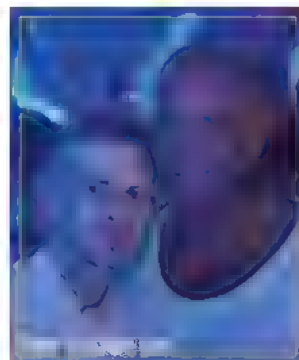
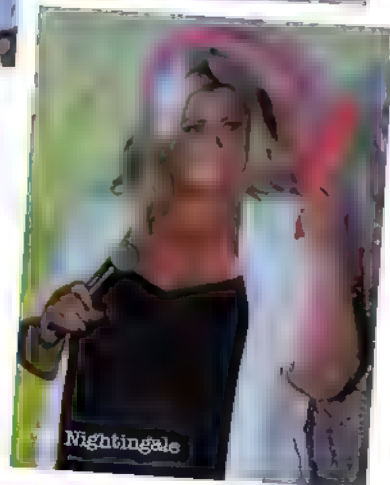
John Bishop

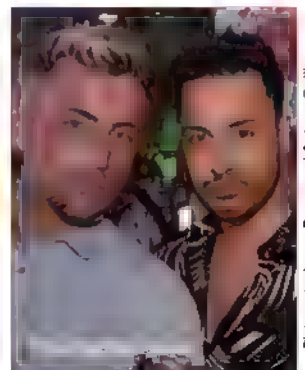
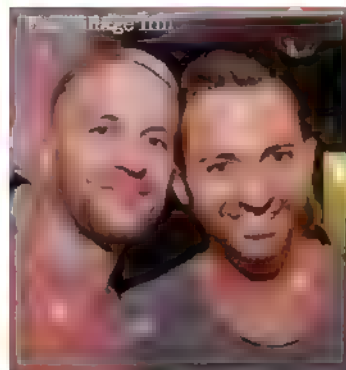
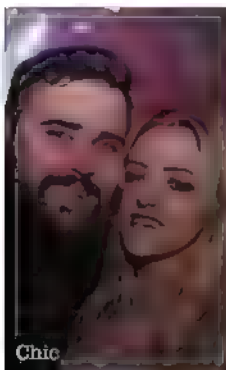
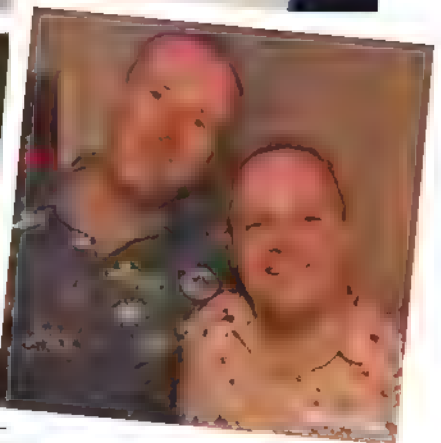
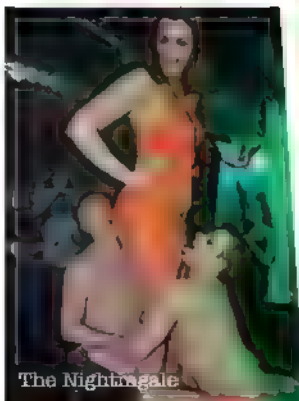
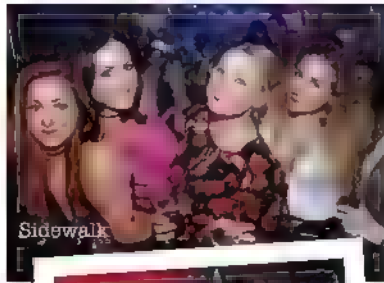
The Nightingale

Party all night in vibrant Birmingham

If you're out for the night in Birmingham, then the city's gay scene is a great place to be!

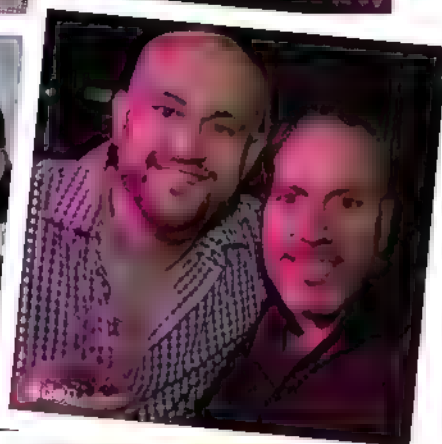
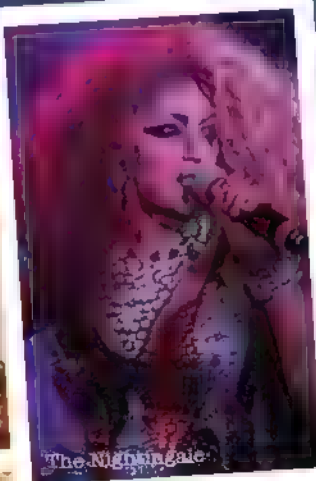
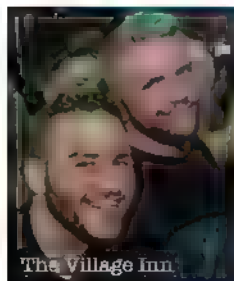
With over 15 bars and clubs to choose from, there really is something for every-one! It's a truly great night out!

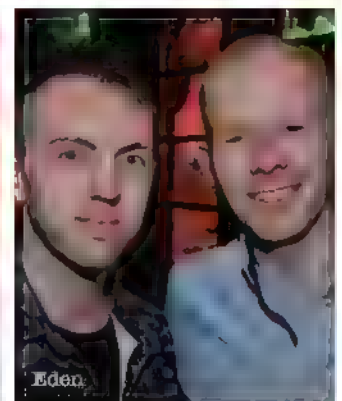
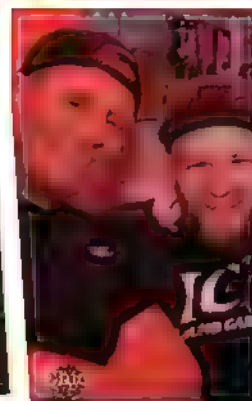
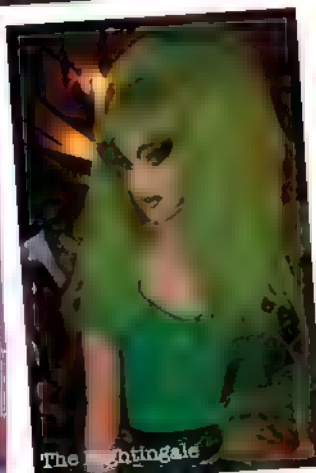
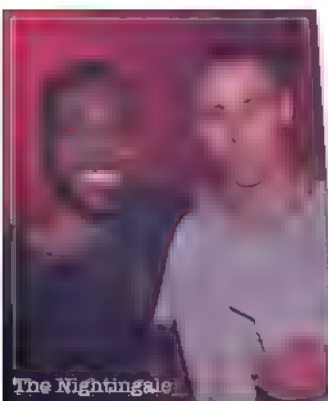
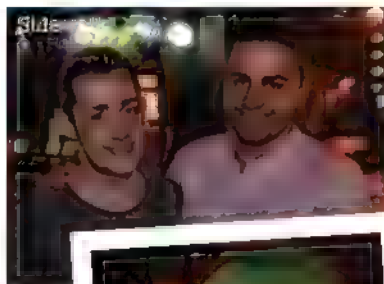
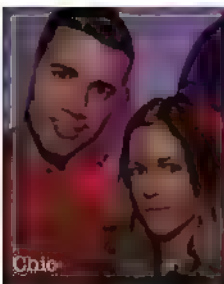
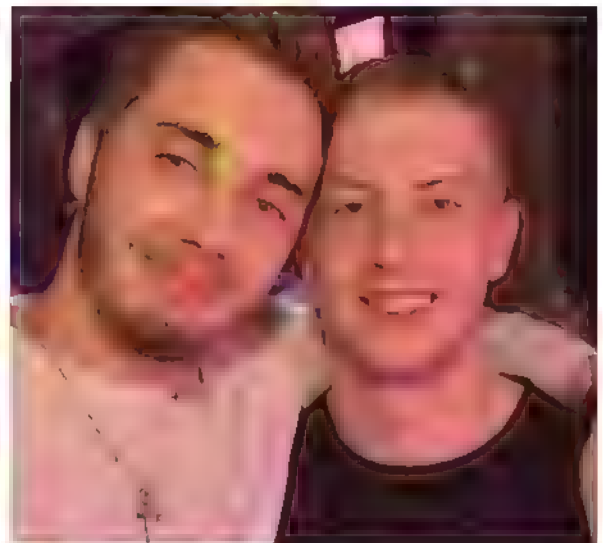
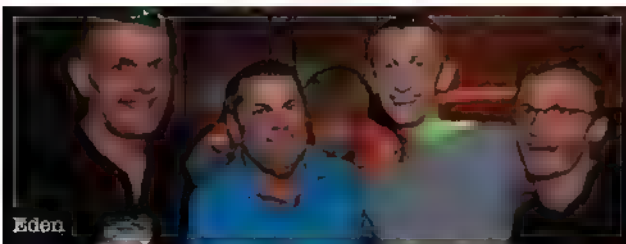
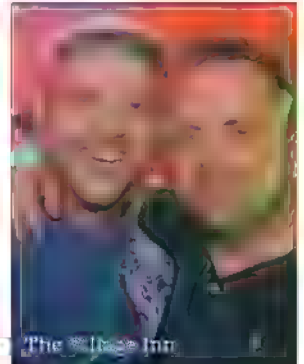
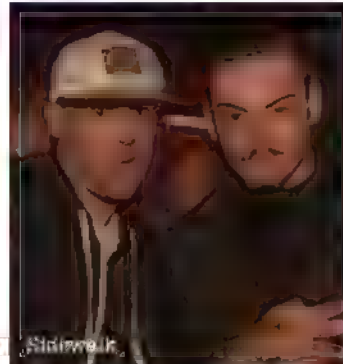
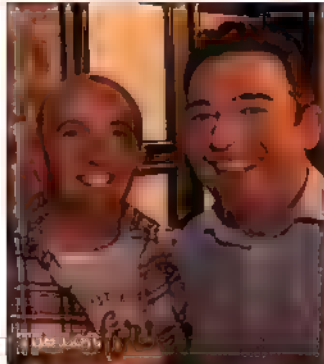
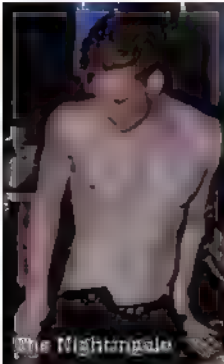
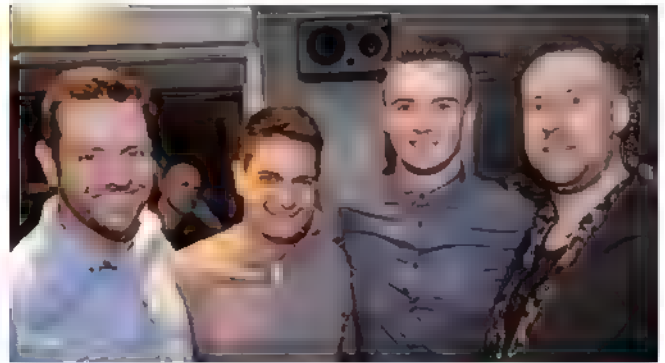




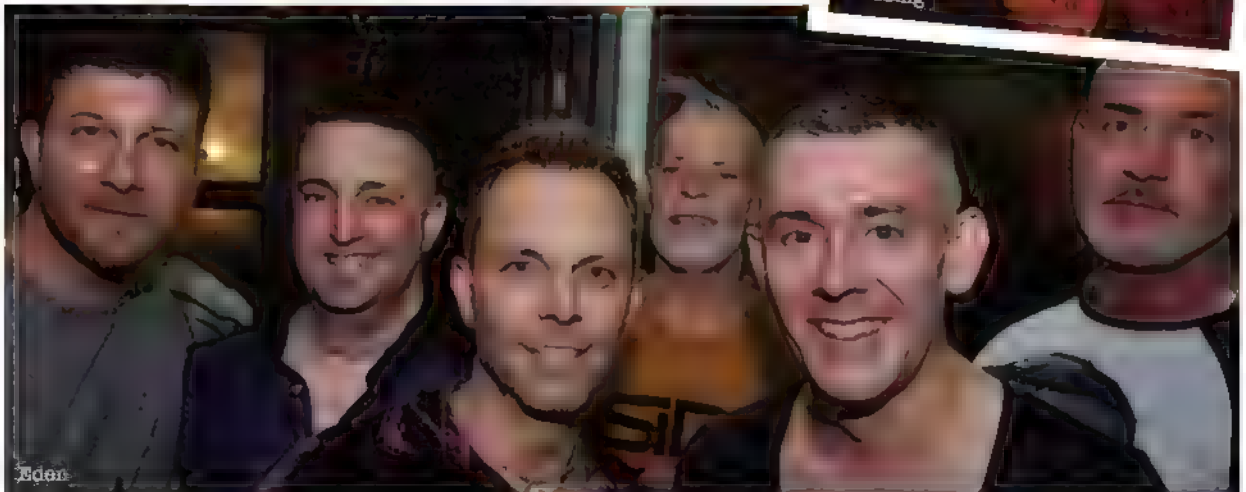
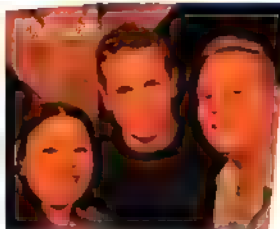
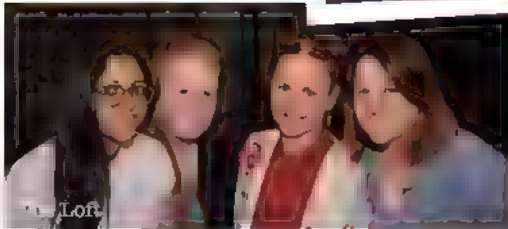
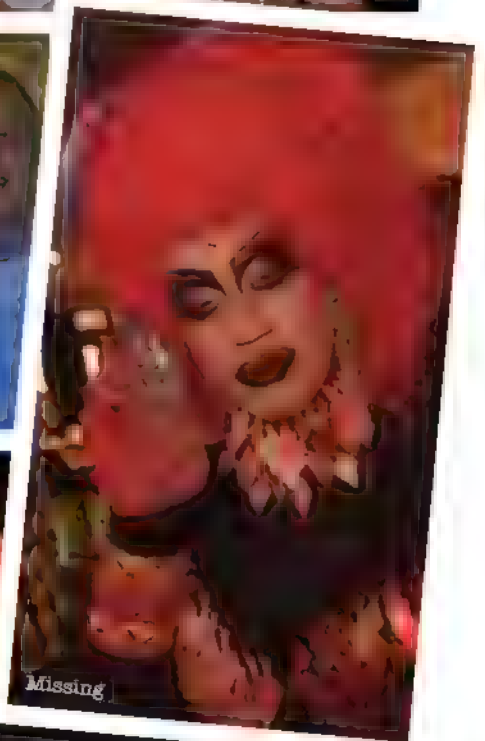
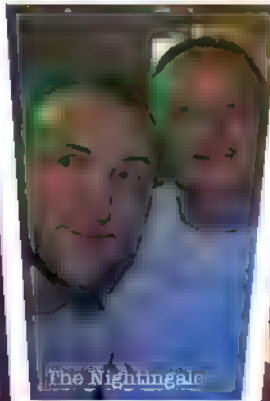
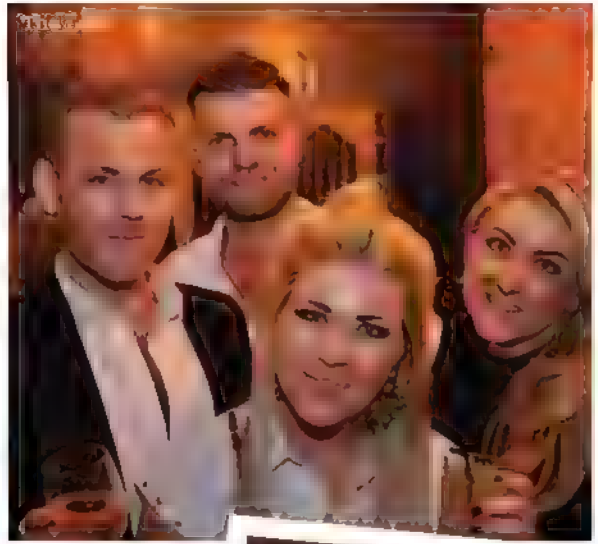
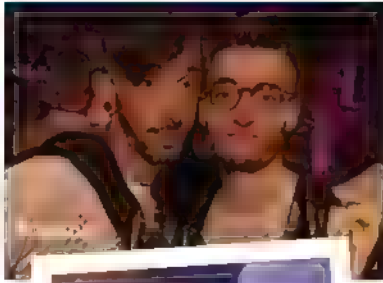
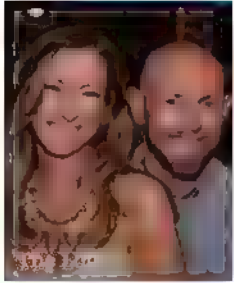
Pictures by Laura Byrne and Antony Collins

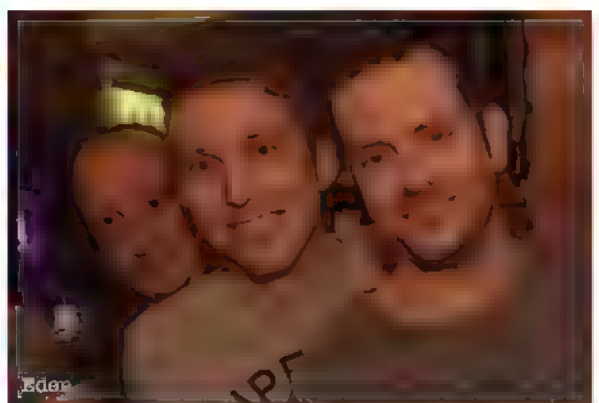
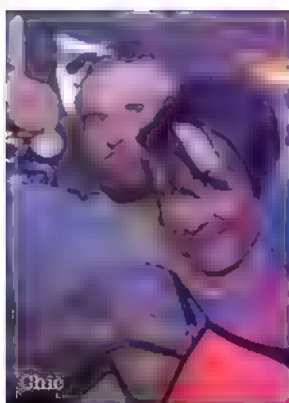
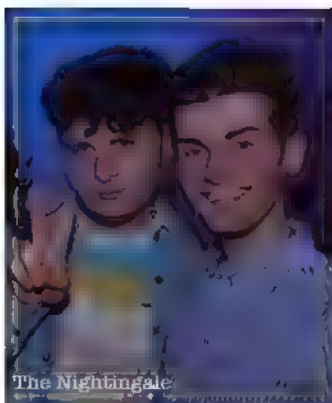
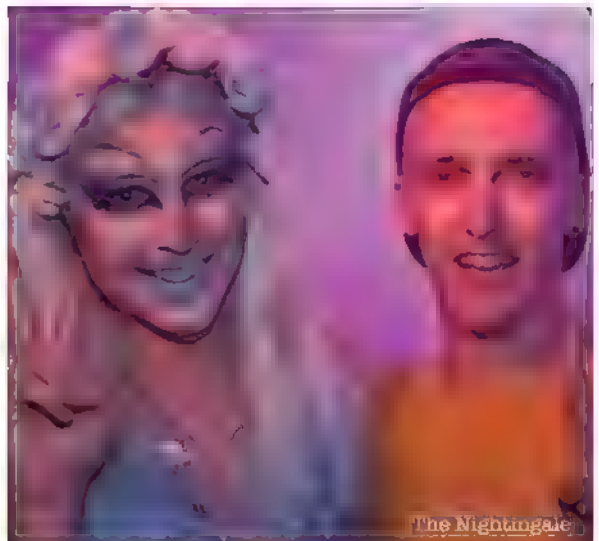
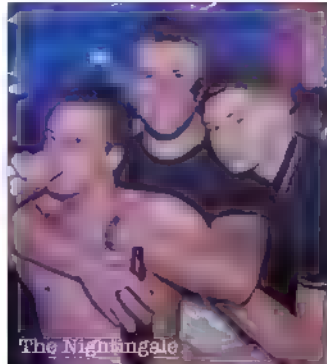
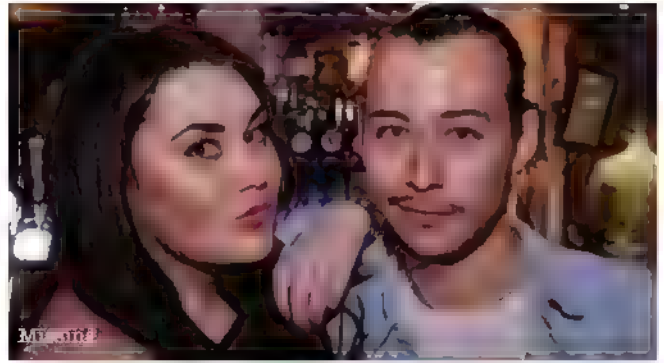
Party all night in vibrant Birmingham



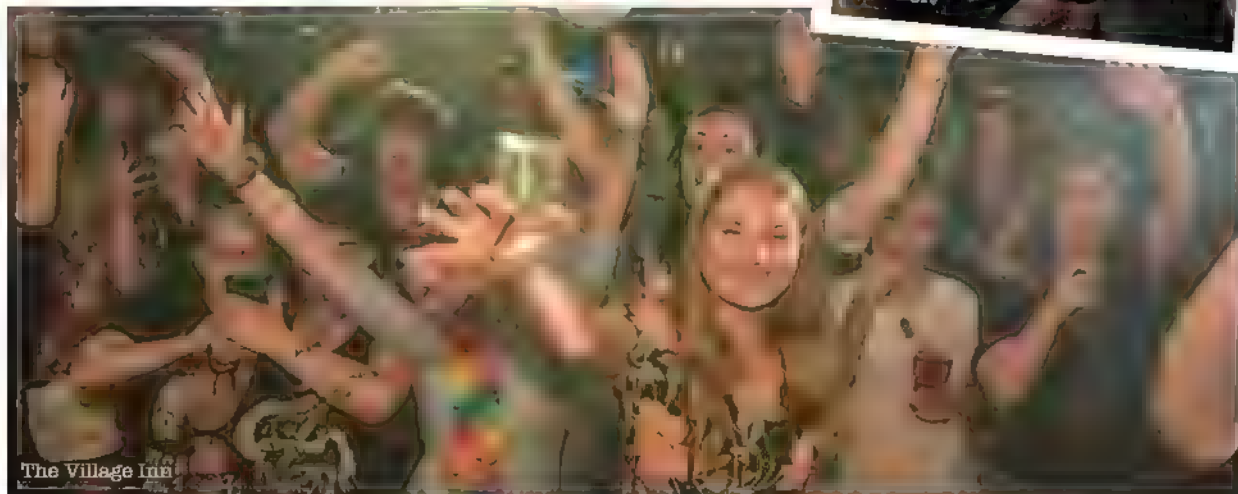
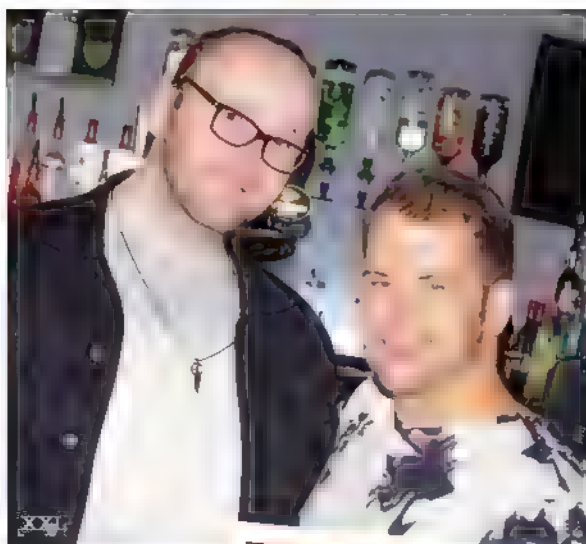
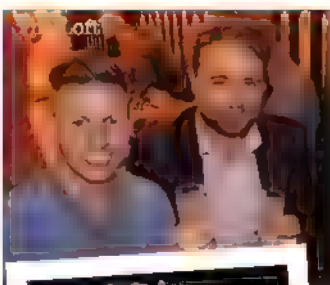


Party all night in vibrant Birmingham





Party all night in vibrant Birmingham



SHROPSHIRE RAINBOW FILM FESTIVAL

19:30 Opening ceremony, with The Deputy Mayor of Shrewsbury Cllr Peter Nutting
20:00 **GOD'S OWN COUNTRY** 2017 (UK)

11:00 **WHO'S GONNA LOVE ME NOW?** 2016 (UK)
Q&A with Saur Mazoz

14:00 **SHORT FILM PROGRAMME** - UK Selection

16:00 **LECTURE: LOOKING AWRY**
Representing Bisexual Desires On Screen

17:30 **WHILE YOU WEREN'T LOOKING** 2015 (South Africa)

20:00 **TANGERINE** 2015 (USA)

11:00 **THE SUMMER OF SANGAILÉ** 2015 (Lithuania / France / Netherlands)

13:30 **SHORT FILM PROGRAMME** - International Selection

15:30 **SIGNATURE MOVE** 2017 (USA) - Q&A with Fawzia Mirza

18:00 **THÉO & HUGO** 2016 (France) - Q&A with Jacques Martinelli

FRIDAY 13th OCTOBER 2017

WWW.RAINBOWFILMFESTIVAL.ORG.UK



2 KOOL 4 SKOOL PARTY



CLASSROOM MAYHEM
29th & 30th SEP 2017
BEST DRESSED DANCE, HOTTTEST FRANKFURTER
SIDEWALK

SMIRNOFF.
VODKA
£1.50
INC. MIXER

ALL
BOMBS
£1.50



QUENCH
YOUR
THURSTDAYS

DJ PLAYING YOUR FAVOURITE POP & CLUB ANTHEMS

SELECTED DRINKS FROM £1



FLUID

23 & 24 SEPTEMBER 2017

A WEEKEND OF NEW QUEER SOUND & MUSIC

ROBIN BUCKLEY ROLF HIND INKERI KALLIO CN LESTER
HENRY MCPHERSON PAUL NORMAN REPEATOR
SIWAN RHYS DANIEL Vs THE WORLD Mx WORLD
REBEKAH UBUNTU MICHAEL WOLTERS YFAT SOUL ZISSO

Plus special guests **MATMOS** live from their studio in Baltimore, USA

SALES & TICKETS

MINERVA WORKS, DIGBETH, BIRMINGHAM

EDEN BAR, GAY VILLAGE, BIRMINGHAM

FLUID FESTIVAL

www.fluidfestival.org



the yard

Coventry's new LGBT bar and club

September Cabaret

FRIDAY 1ST SEPT
BUNNY BURNS
FRIDAY 8TH SEPT
MISS MARTY
FRIDAY 15TH SEPT
DANNY BEARD
FRIDAY 22ND SEPT
VILEDA MOPPE
FRIDAY 29TH SEPT
FANNIE COB

HOSTED BY ROCKELLA BROWN

Fridays

Thursdays Karaoke

Saturdays

THE BIG NIGHT OUT

THROUGH UNTIL 4AM

Sundays

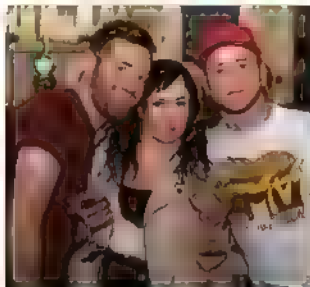
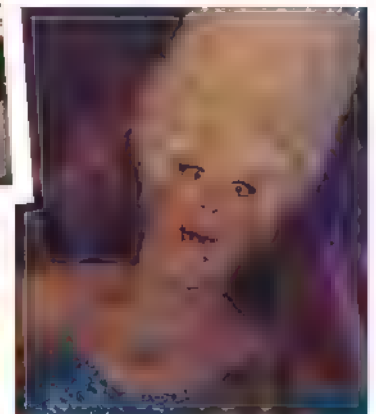
Play Your Cards Right
Bingo, and Happy hour
from 8pm

The Yard, 11-12 Bull Yard, CV1 1LH
www.theyardcoventry.co.uk

Cabaret brings all the boys to The Yard!

One of the newest gay bars in the Midlands, Coventry venue The Yard is going down a storm with the city's LGBT community.

The Yard features cabaret throughout the week, good music and great drinks, making it a real go to venue on your night out. Why not pop along and see what's happening.





The long-awaited
new show

Motionhouse
CHARGE
ELECTRIFYING DANCE-CIRCUS

WORLD PREMIERE

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

4 - 7 October 2017

7.30pm

024 7652 4524 | warwickartscentre.co.uk









SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER

TOTALLY
GORGEOUS
BIGGEST FRESHERS EVENT... EVER!

10PM - 6AM

ROAR
CHALLENGE 25

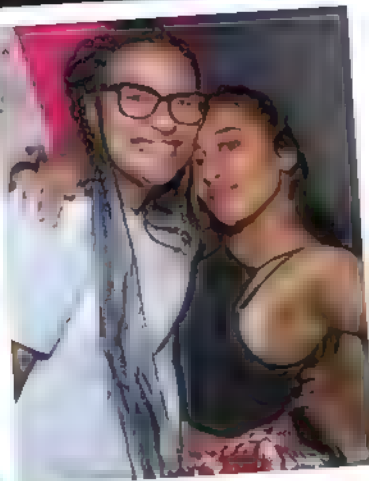
JEDWARD - LIVE ON STAGE

FREE ENTRY B4 11PM... DOUBLE VODKA & MIXER & JAGERBOMBS JUST £2 B4 11PM!

#GORGEOUSNIGHTCLUB /

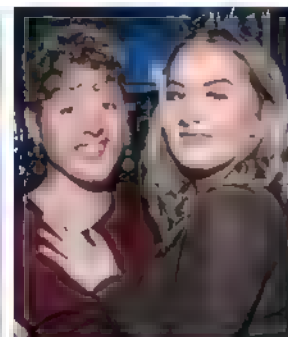
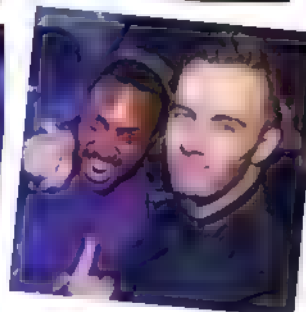
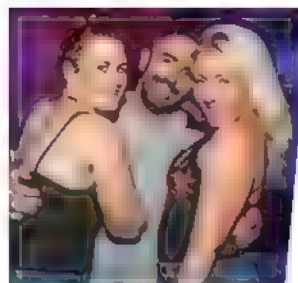
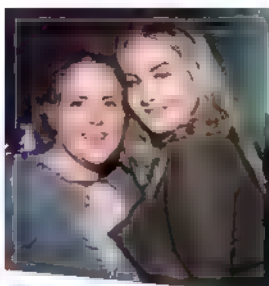
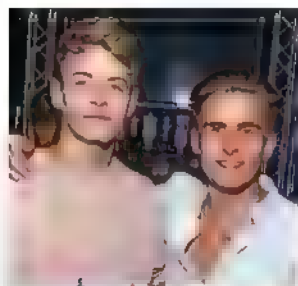


Gorgeous is Wolves' best place to party!



Another month and another great time to be had at Wolverhampton's Gorgeous! The venue is one of the most popular in the city, with great sound, lighting and atmosphere.

If you've not yet been along, be sure to pop in to see Shaun, Ricki and the rest of the team for a great night out!



Pictures by Flint Reunion Media

THE BIGGEST GAY MONDAY NIGHT IN THE MIDLANDS!



**MON 4TH SEPTEMBER
MISS MARTY**

**FREE
ENTRY
BEFORE
MIDNIGHT!**
10PM-3AM



**MON 5TH OCTOBER
FANNY BURNS**

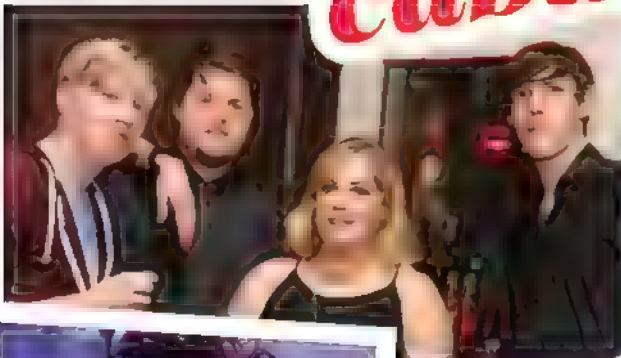
Fabulous

PLUS: HAPPY HOUR FROM 10PM // DRINKS FROM £1 ALL NIGHT

C:21

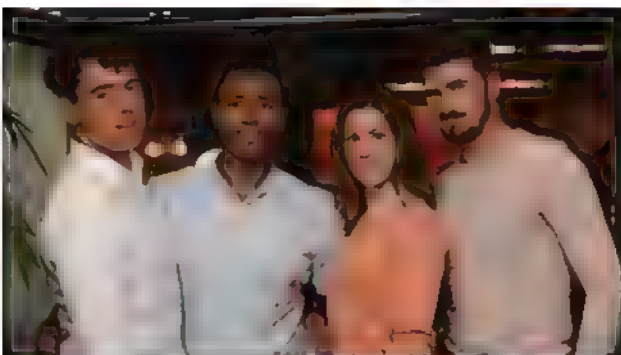
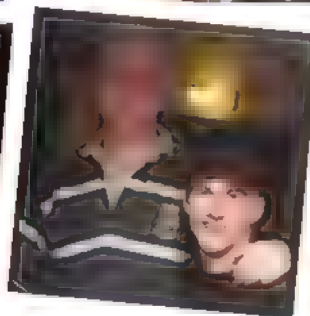
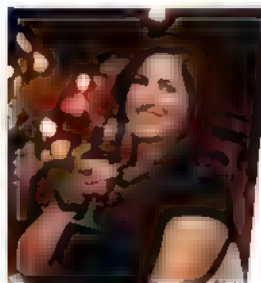
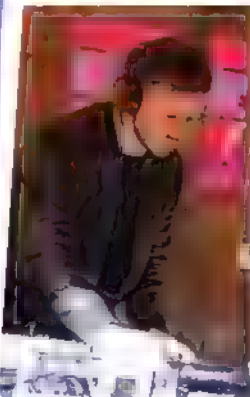
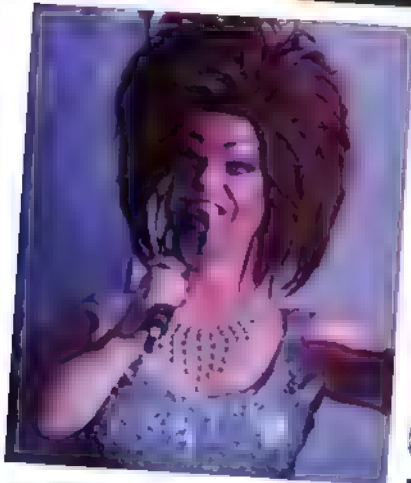
18-21 ABBEY FOREGATE, SHREWSBURY, SHROPSHIRE SY2 6AE. TEL: 01743 271821 WWW.C21SHREWSBURY.CO.UK

Monday night cabaret at C:21



We popped into Shrewsbury's C:21 bar and nightclub early last month - and boy, what a fun crowd they have!

The venue hosts cabaret on the first Monday of the month, with September seeing Birmingham's very own award winning Queen of Drag, Marty Smith, taking to the stage on Monday the 4th!



Pictures by Marcus Hart

GAY BARS & CLUBS IN THE MIDLANDS...

BIRMINGHAM

BAR JESTER

142 Wrentham St, B1 1EY
Tel: 0121 622 8144

BOLTZ CLUB

Lower Essex St, B5 6QP
Tel: 0121 666 6888

CLUB CHIC

28 Horsefayr, B11DD
Tel: 0121 666 6806

THE CORE

Sherlock St, B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 2797
www.thecoreclub.co.uk

DEVILS KITCHEN

Kent St, B5 6NB

EDEN BAR

Sherlock St, B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 1953
www.theedenbar.co.uk
/eden.bar

EQUATOR

Hurst St, B5 6SE
Tel: 0121 622 5077

FOUNTAIN INN

Wrentham St, B5 6QL
Tel: 0121 622 1452

THE FOX

17 Lower Essex St,
B5 6SN Tel: 0121 622 3213

GLAMOROUS BAR

27 Hurst St, B5 4BD
www.glamorousbirmingham.co.uk

1 pg.Glamorousbirmingham

THE LOFT

142 Bromsgrove St,
B5 6RG
Tel: 0121 6222 444
www.theloftlounge.co.uk

1 TheLoftLounge

MISSING BAR

Hurst St, B5 6NU
Tel: 0121 622 4256
www.missingbar.co.uk
/missingbar

THE NIGHTINGALE

Kent St, B5 6RD
Tel: 0121 622 1718
www.nightingaleclub.co.uk
/thenightingaleclub

SIDEWALK

Hurst Street, B5 6SE
Tel: 0121 666 6220
www.sidewalkbirmingham.co.uk

THE VILLAGE INN

Hurst St, B5 4BD
Tel: 0121 622 4742
www.villageinnbirmingham.co.uk
/villageinnbirmingham

THE WELLINGTON

72 Bristol St, B5 7AH
Tel: 0121 622 2592

COVENTRY

RAINBOWS

Short St, CV1 2LW
Tel: 02476 551738

THE YARD

11-12 Bull Yard, CV1 1LH
Tel: 02475 012959

GLOUCESTER

THE WESTGATE

Westgate Street, GL1 2NF
Tel: 01452 690045

KIDDERMINSTER

ROYAL EXCHANGE

31 New Road, DY10 1AF
Tel: 01562 228619

SHREWSBURY

C:21 CLUB

18-21 Abbey Foregate
SY2 6AE
Tel: 01743 271821

www.c21bar.co.uk

1/C21Nightclub

THE PEACH TREE

18-21 Abbey Foregate,
Tel: 01743 355055

www.thepeachtree.co.uk

1/ThePeachTreeRestaurant

HAVANA REPUBLIC

18-21 Abbey Foregate
SY2 6AE
Tel: 01743 271821

www.havanarepublic.co.uk

1/HavanaRepublic

LEEK

VALIANT

3 Stanley Street, ST13 5HG
Tel: 01538 362812

STOKE-ON-TRENT

GOSSIP

4 Hope Street, ST1 5BT
Tel: 0182 204957

PINK

93 Stafford Street, ST1 1LS
Tel: 0182 272772

STOURBRIDGE

THE BELL

20 Market St, DY8 1AG
Tel: 07826 518478

STRAITFORD upon AVON

NO.7

Proud Crowd, 1st Mon
monthly, 7 Windsor St
Tel: 07787 642510

TELFORD

THREE FURNACES

30 Bdgnorth Rd, Madeley,
TF7 4JB. 01952 588521

WALSALL

THE LION

Birchills St, WS2 8NG
Tel: 01922 610977

THE RED LION

Park St, WS1 1NW
Tel: 01922 610977

WOLVERHAMPTON

BOND STREET TAVERN

14 Bond St, WV2 4AS
Tel: 07825 305050

GORGEOUS

School St, WV1 4LF
Tel: 01902 427247

1/gorgeousbar

WORCESTER

THE FLAG

50 Lowesmoor, WR1 2SG
Tel: 01905 780467

VELVET CLUB

Angel Row, WR1 3QN
Tel: 01905 20218

DERBY

THE CROWN INN

40 Curzon St, DE1 1LL
Tel: 01332 381742

LEICESTER

DOVER CASTLE

34 Dover St, LE16PT
Tel: 0116 255 3052

HELSINKI

94 Rutland St, LE1 1SB
Tel: 0116 254 7568

RAINBOW & DOVE

185 Charles St, LE1 1LA
Tel: 0116 254 7568

VENOM

YOLO, Gay every Wed
Beigrave Gate, LE1 3GR
Tel: 0116 251 7986

NORTHAMPTON

THE BOSTON

College St, NN1 2QP
Tel: 01604 604404

NOTTINGHAM

NEW FORESTERS

St Ann's St, NG1 3LX
Tel: 0115 958 0432

THE NEWMARKET INN

38 Lower Parliament
Street, NG1 3BA. (Gay
Friendly)

PROPAGANDA

8 Broadway, NG1 1PS
0115 979 9183

VENUE OWNERS

TO UPDATE YOUR VENUE

LISTING: PLEASE EMAIL

RYAN@MIDLANDSZONE.CO.UK



TARGET OVER 60,000+
READERS EVERY MONTH

To find out more contact: Lee Woodhouse on 01743 261783

WIN! A year's supply of **Orgasmic Orange SPUNK Lube**

In need of another bottle of lube? Well, you're in luck! We've teamed up with SPUNK Lube to give away to one lucky reader a year's supply of limited-edition Orgasmic Orange SPUNK Lube!

SPUNK Lube is a multi-award-winning water-based silicone lubricant that resembles the look and feel of natural body lubrication, allowing you to feel the sensation of skin-to-skin contact.

It's white, creamy, fun to use and is made from a non-staining hypoallergenic formula that cleans up very easily. It's not sticky, tacky or greasy and is perfect for anal, vaginal,

masturbation, solo, sex, toys, condoms and more.

SPUNK Lube is formulated with the highest quality of ingredients and will leave your skin feeling soft and smooth.

Costing £9.99 for an 8oz bottle, Orgasmic Orange SPUNK Lube is available from spunklube.com.

To enter our competition to win a dozen 8oz bottles, all you need to do is visit midlandszone.co.uk and answer this simple question.

Which type of lube is SPUNK?

- A) Silicone
- B) Oil
- C) Milk





A PLACE SUNLIVE PROPERTIES



A world of amazing property under one roof



ADVANCED TICKET OFFER

2 FOR £15

aplaceinthesun.com/exhibitions

100+ properties for sale • 100+ properties for rent • 100+ properties for lease • 100+ properties for sale • 100+ properties for rent • 100+ properties for lease • 100+ properties for sale • 100+ properties for rent • 100+ properties for lease

SOMETIMES THE ONLY STRAIGHT THING

YOU NEED IN LIFE IS ADVICE



**Specialist Civil Partnership solicitors
supporting the Midlands gay community**

- Cohabitation & Prenuptial Agreements
- Financial Issues & Asset Protection
- Wills & Powers of Attorney
- Landlord & Tenant
- Civil Partnership Dissolution and Divorce



bradin trubshaw & kirwan

Bradin Trubshaw & Kirwan Solicitors, 5 Beacon Street, Lichfield, WS 3 7AA

Tel no: 01543 421840 www.btk solicitors.com

Email: lp@btk solicitors.com

Authorised and Regulated by the Solicitors' Regulation Authority SRA number 443 16

TAKE A TEST UK.COM

It's Home Postal Testing Kit you can trust

- Think you might have been exposed to a sexually transmitted infection?
- Perhaps you want to test for HIV?
- Or you just want an MOT?

TAKETESTUK.COM offers discreet, confidential testing kits.
USE code SAVE17 for a *FREE HIV test kit

Follow us @savinglivesuk @TakeATestUK
or join our Facebook page SavingLivesHIV

SAVING
LIVES
UK.COM

Birmingham
Heartlands
HIV Service

Heart of England

Registered charity no. 1144855 *Free code valid for limited period

NHS

MENS HEALTH

LEICESTER

Free, private and
confidential sexual health
checks to gay & bisexual
men, and men who have
sex with men (MSM).



Celts Narborough Road Sauna Clinic:

Day: Saturday 18th August

Time: 11am - 1:30pm

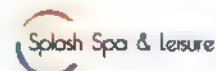
Place: 38 Narborough Road, Leicester, LE3 0BQ

City Celts Sauna Clinic:

Day: Mondays Time: 4pm - 7pm

Day: Wednesdays Time: 3pm - 6pm

Place: 33 New Bond Street, Leicester, LE1 4RQ



Day: Thursdays

Time: 3pm - 6pm

Place: 61 Bedford Street, Leicester, LE1 3JR

Further information available
www.leicestersexualhealth.nhs.uk



You can also check out Trade
Sexual Health:

www.tradesexualhealth.com



Apple MacBook Pro ▲

When it comes to finding a decent laptop to last you for your time at college or university, look no further than Apple's MacBook Pro! It's thin, powerful and portable – perfect for lugging between classes

From £1,249.00
apple.com/uk

WD My Passport Hard Drive ►

During your time at college or university, you'll be doing a lot of work – most of which will be more valuable to you than gold. That's why it's important to back up your output on a regular basis with something like the My Passport from WD. It comes in a variety of storage sizes from 1TB to 4TB, as well as a range of attractive colours to suit your personality. It's invaluable, so make sure you get one!

From £59.99
www.wdc.com



Google Chromecast Ultra ◀

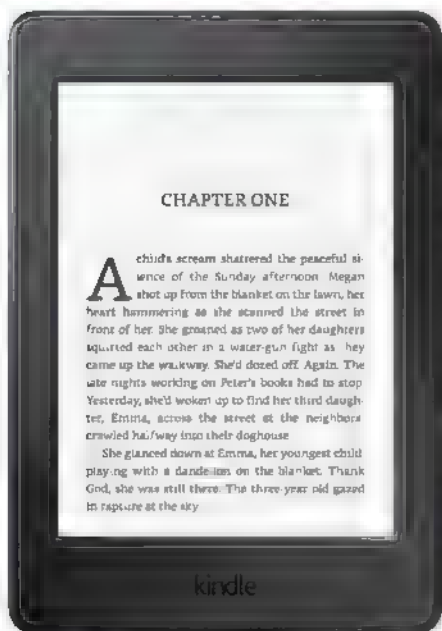
When you're chilling in halls at uni, a Chromecast Ultra is a great way to stream HD and 4K content from your phone to your telly. Whether it's Netflix, YouTube or even Spotify – the Chromecast Ultra is a handy and inexpensive device to have connected to your TV

£69.00
store.google.com



BACK2UNI!

Essential technology for a new year at college or uni!



Amazon Kindle Paperwhite ◀

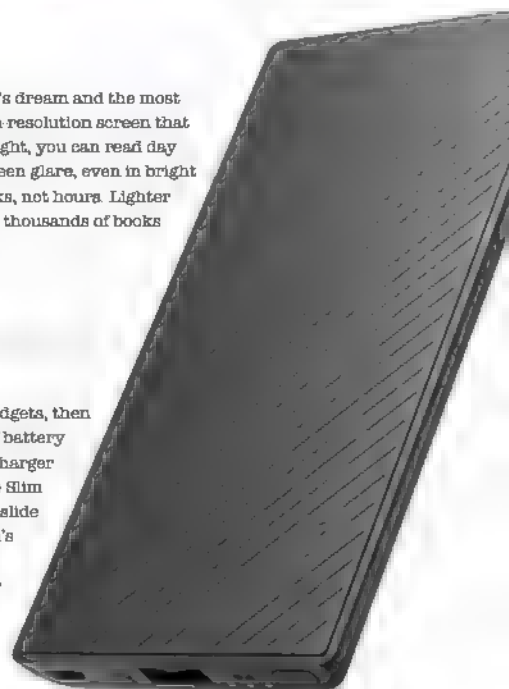
The Amazon Kindle Paperwhite is a bookworm's dream and the most popular device in the Kindle range. With a high-resolution screen that reads like real paper and a built-in adjustable light, you can read day and night. Unlike tablets, the Kindle has no screen glare, even in bright sunlight, and a single battery charge lasts weeks, not hours. Lighter than a paperback, the Kindle Paperwhite holds thousands of books from a massive selection of over 1.5 million.

£109.99
amazon.co.uk

Anker PowerCore Slim 5000mAh ►

If, like us, you're always using your portable gadgets, then you'll be all too aware that they soon run out of battery. That's why it's a great idea to have a portable charger on hand in case of emergencies. The PowerCore Slim offers fast and safe charging and is designed to slide neatly next to your phone. The PowerCore Slim's capacity allows you to recharge your iPhone or Android smartphone up to two times – great for such a small device!

£21.00
amazon.co.uk





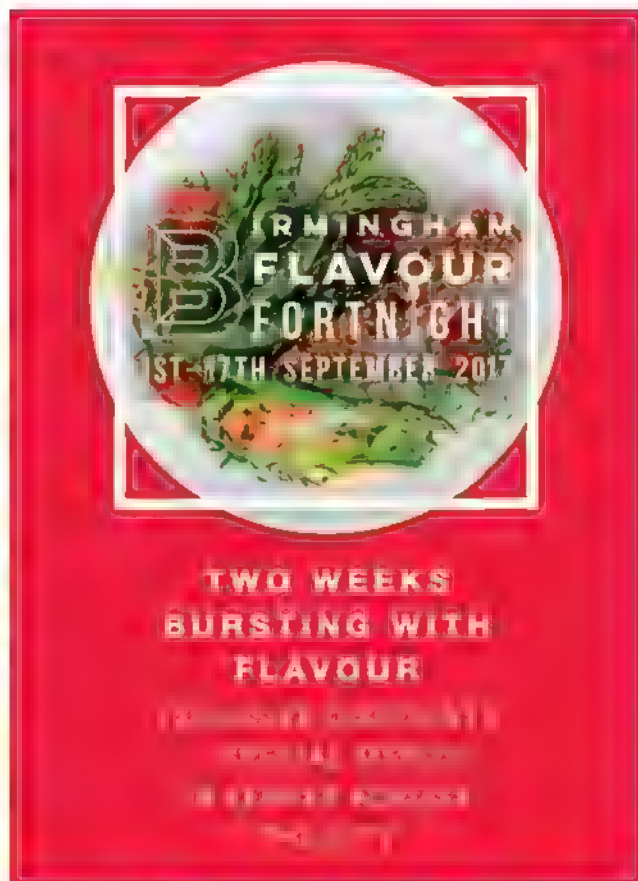
Queen's
"NOT QUITE A QUIZ"

STARTS WEDNESDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER
THEN EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY
8PM TILL 11 - £2 PP

**FIRST PRIZE
£150**

Wing it Wednesday
Kilo of Chicken Wings
and drink £10

WWW.THELOFTBRUM.CO.UK
 @THELOFTBRUM @THELOFTBRUM LOFTBRUMINGHAM
 143 BROMSGROVE STREET BIRMINGHAM - 0121 622 2444



**BIRMINGHAM
FLAVOUR
FORTNIGHT**
1ST - 17TH SEPTEMBER 2017

**TWO WEEKS
BURSTING WITH
FLAVOUR**

100+ LOCAL RESTAURANTS
40+ LOCAL DRINKERS
100+ LOCAL PRODUCERS
100+ LOCAL ARTISTS



10th ANNIVERSARY EVENT

**WEST MIDLANDS
VEGAN
FESTIVAL**

28th & 29th October 2017
10am-6pm

Wolves Civic & Art Gallery
Wolverhampton WV1 1RQ

**ENTRY ONLY £1
Under 16s
FREE**

100+ stalls, 100+ live bands, 100+ workshops, 100+ food trucks
Live entertainment, Veganism, Kosher, Halal, and more

munch

Food and drink news from across the Midlands...

Following the shock closure of Birmingham's award-winning Viva Brazil steakhouse, CG Restaurant & Bars has announced that it will open its 11th Dirty Martini branch in the now vacant premises later this year.

The popular cocktail chain, offering a bespoke range of martinis and signature cocktails, boasts 'glamorous' interiors and music from top DJs. CG Restaurant & Bars describe it as 'the perfect destination for after-work indulgence, pre-club cocktails, sophisticated celebrations or a stylish late-night party'. The venue's opening date is yet to be announced.



Japanese street food in the heart of Worcester

Japanese street food and sushi restaurant YO! has launched its first site in Worcester.

Featuring just under 100 seats, YO! focuses on providing authentic handcrafted dishes which are all freshly prepared each day and served from the iconic 'kaiten' conveyor belt.

The menu boasts a host of options, from the best seller, chicken katsu curry, to beef teriyaki, from to smaller bites like sashimi, sushi rolls and temaki to sweet treats like the ginza strawberry cake. Robin Rowland, CEO of YO! said: "We are thrilled to be bringing YO! to the residents of Worcester, situated on the high street it is the perfect lunch or dinner spot after a day of shopping in the city. We can't wait to meet the locals and start sharing our delicious Japanese cuisine."

Mobile gin bar The Gin Emporium is holding a masterclass at popular Wolverhampton venue The Grain Store early this month.

Participants will learn to identify gin's unique flavours and botanicals and get to try a range of expertly selected British gins prepared by the bar's mixologists.

Nibbles and a Gin Emporium gift bag are included in the ticket price, with music and entertainment provided until late.

The event takes place over two evenings, Friday 1 and Saturday 2 September, and spaces are limited to 30 people per night. Tickets are priced at £20 per person.



Celebrity vlogger Nisha Katona to open Indian street food restaurant in Brum

A new Indian street food restaurant owned by celebrity Youtube vlogger Nisha Katona is opening in Birmingham.

Having already launched two restaurants in Liverpool and one in Manchester, Nisha is set to open the Grand Central located Mowgli this month. The menu features everything from curries and meats to tiffin boxes and street chats. Vegan, gluten free and children's menus are also available. For more information, visit mowglstreetfood.com.



Orange Arts

Joe Orton's

Entertaining Mr. Sloane

A Smart and Sexy Comedy

WARNING:
CONTAINS ADULT THEMES
AND AUDITY

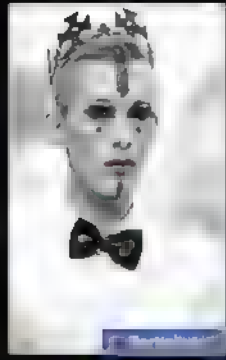
5th - 14th October 2017

The BLUE ORANGE THEATRE

Blue Orange Theatre
118 Great Hampton Street, Birmingham, B18 6AD
www.blueorangetheatre.co.uk

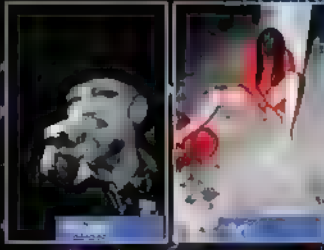
Nick Hynan

Photography



Birmingham-based photographer Nick Hynan has worked with the LGBT community for many years. He brings a unique visual style and insight to his work with individuals and organisations across the region.

nickhynan30@hotmail.com
07843 173 865



www.nickhynanphotography.com

LEICESTER

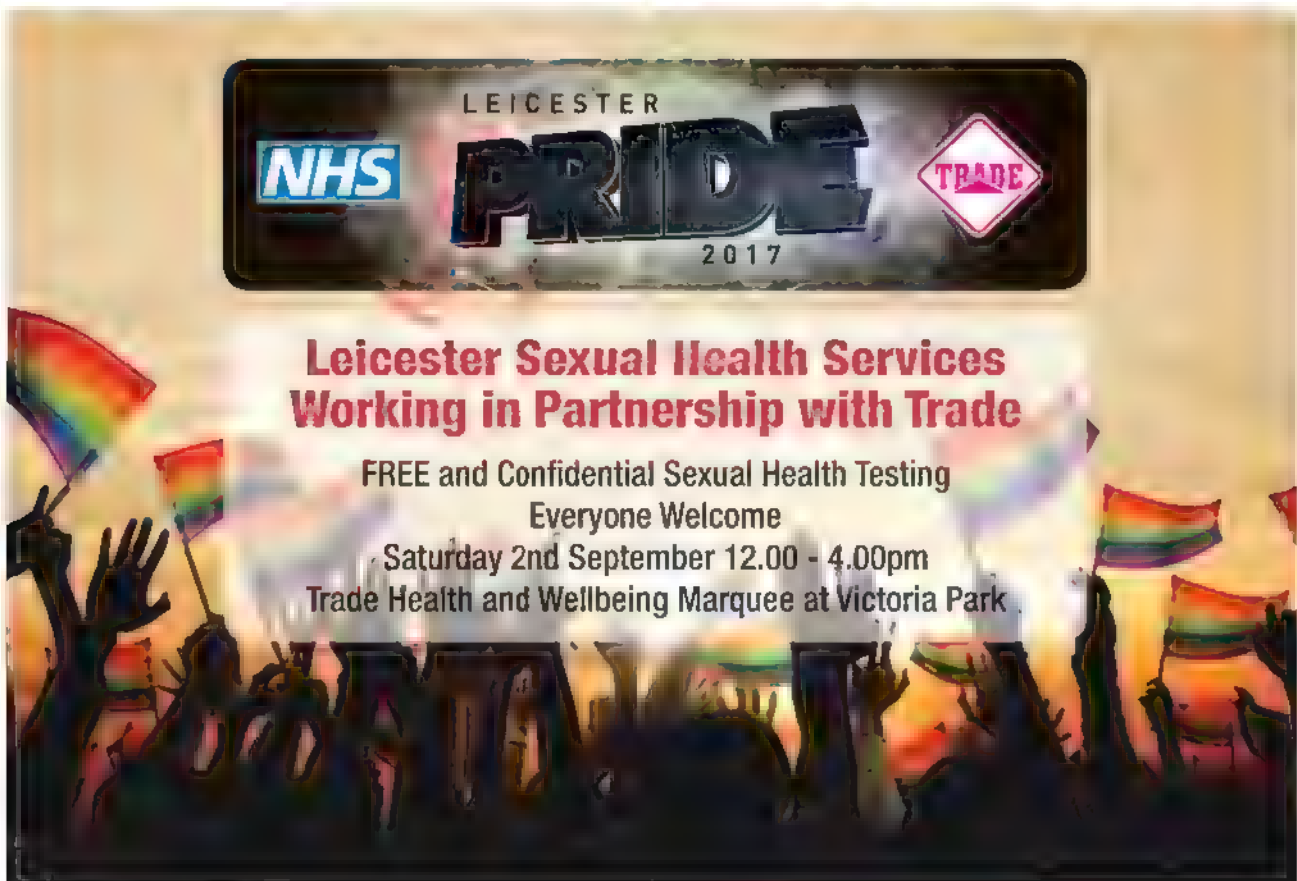
NHS PRIDE 2017

TRADE

Leicester Sexual Health Services Working in Partnership with Trade

FREE and Confidential Sexual Health Testing
Everyone Welcome

Saturday 2nd September 12.00 - 4.00pm
Trade Health and Wellbeing Marquee at Victoria Park





THE LIFE OF A THIRTYSOMETHING GAY

“A criminal dilemma”

I don't know about you, but over the last month I've gorged myself on the plethora of LGBT-plus TV documentaries and dramas commissioned to mark the 50th anniversary of the partial decriminalisation of homosexuality. The best, I think, has been the BBC's *Gay Britannia* series.

The programming schedule has been diverse. *Queers*, for instance, was a snappy 10-part series of 10-minute monologues by various characters from the last hundred years, all exploring stories of love, hardship, marriage and the battles for equality.

Then there were more hard hitting programmes focusing on homophobia in our modern world, and more celebratory ones taking a look at the changing nature of LGBT-plus culture over the last 50 years.

The one that got me most, however, was the two-part drama, *Man In An Orange Shirt*, written by the very talented novelist, Patrick Gale. He and his husband live in a beautiful home in Cornwall, and over the last few decades Gale has devoted himself to writing about family, life, love and plenty more besides.

His books prominently feature LGBT characters - many close to home, as he draws on his own personal experiences and those of his friends to provide material for his work.

Man In An Orange Shirt was exceptional. The first episode focused on Michael (Oliver Jackson-Cohen), a young World War Two veteran who'd met a childhood friend in battle, only to then fall in love with him. On returning to London following victory in Europe, he embarks on an illicit affair with Thomas March (James McArdle). But in an age before the Wolfenden committee, let alone decriminalisation of homosexuality in 1967, Michael is tied by the conventions of his age, so marries Flora (Joanna Vanderham).

What inevitably follows is heart-wrenching, as Michael and Thomas are pulled apart by a web of social and political expectation. Flora

discovers their love letters (in mirror fashion to Patrick Gale's own mother) and fights back, disgusted and confused by this male imposter in her marital bed.

The situation is heartbreaking for all involved, and corrosively destructive of the soul. In the end nobody really wins - everybody lives out a bitter life dogged by unhappiness.

This episode really moved me. It made me stop and take count. What would I have done in 1945 had I fallen in love with a man, knowing that I could face imprisonment and the loss of my civil liberties because of that love - a love that I would've been powerless to prevent?

It would be too easy to think - sat in the comfort of my leather armchair, sipping my merlot in an age when I can marry someone of the same sex - that I would have defied the social, political and legal conventions of the day. Deep down in my heart, I know there's something of the social conformist in me, however hard I try to suppress it. It's sad to think, but if I'm truly honest with myself, I'd probably have bowed to social pressure, got married, hidden my sexuality and just got on with life. I don't think I could have survived prison or, worse still, the barbaric chemical and aversion therapies that might have been imposed upon me as part of the 'reconditioning' of my sexuality.

The thought made me feel ashamed. Yet married life would have been miserable for all involved too. The thought horrifies me, and brings home the reality of what the older members of our community faced before 1967, in an age when homosexuality was universally held as a perversion and thought to be a threat to the social fabric that binds 'the natural order'.

Part two of *Man In An Orange Shirt* played an even cleverer game. Set 60 years later, Michael's grandson, Adam (Julian Morris), is 34, ridiculously attractive, closeted and living with his grandmother, a now much older Flora (Vanessa Redgrave). He feels intense shame about his sexuality. The shame is in part a reflection of his conservative upbringing. He engages in intense casual



sex - never allowing himself more than a single encounter with any particular individual - and then returns home each night to scrub himself clean in the shower. In the end he finds love in the form of the handsome Steve (David Gyasi).

So what was Patrick Gale's point in writing *Man In An Orange Shirt*? Well, certainly his depiction of modern gay life showcases the sense of loneliness felt by so many LGBT plus people in this age of convenience, when sex is readily available but commitment as elusive as at any time before 1967.

Have we ended up even more isolated than we used to be, I wonder? We may have the bars, the clubs, the right to a marriage licence - and perhaps even the chance, from time to time, to walk hand in hand in public - but how free are we really? We may have won our civil liberties, but have we become lost in the battle for our freedoms, unable to be the best version of ourselves?

These are uneasy questions to ask, but nonetheless ones we may do well to consider.

“What’s in a name?”

‘Homosexual’ as a term was never really going to be a goer - although it does, as they put it, do exactly what it says on the tin.

The homosexual tin would have ‘same sex’ in it, which is a perfect description of gay people - it’s Greek, don’t you know. ‘Homosexual’ was never going to stick, however, because it sounds clinical. It also has the word ‘sexual’ in it, which is perhaps a little too ‘on the nail’ for the more prudish elements of our society.

Instead, over the years, we’ve been given, and have adopted, a wide range of pet names to describe what we are, most of which have started out as derogatory but have now become merely descriptive.

Long before we started lugging rainbow flags around with us, we were given the description ‘gay’, which used to mean brightly coloured. It’s the word’s other meaning of carefree, however, which was applied to homo-

sexuals. In a journey that took a couple of centuries, gay went from meaning carefree to meaning uninhibited, which then became ‘sexually loose’, so that the word was then applied to female prostitutes. The meaning was then broadened to include male prostitutes, and then it became the word for homosexual men. The journey has since carried on, with gay now being used as the adjective for anything that is generally rubbish.

So, what do we have that isn’t gay? As gay started out as carefree and brightly coloured, queer meant peculiar, and bent meant, well, not straight. My least favourite is poof (and the Australian version, poofter) which basically refers to farts. Fortunately, poof is not experiencing any sort of resurgence since its heyday in the 1970s, when the tabloids used to plaster it on their front pages along with some ridiculous scare story about gay people.

While lesbians have tended to adopt words like gay and queer as if they were our own, we’ve not done too well at getting our own words - dyke being one of the few examples. Dyke gained some sort of popularity in the 1990s but seems to have faded away since - possibly because of its very inauspicious beginnings. Dykes were dams which, if they sprung a leak, would need someone to plug up the hole with their finger. Not a nice way to describe a woman, and, quite frankly, a very impractical way of stopping a dam leaking.

As the rhyme goes, words will never hurt me, but I do think it’s high time we had a re-branding - being called carefree and brightly coloured is pretty nice, but names relating to ‘peculiar’, ‘farting’ and ‘leaking dam’ really aren’t showcasing our best qualities...

We should get Saatchi & Saatchi onto it. Because we’re worth it.

Steam Room Sauna
Rest Rooms Jacuzzi
Large Screen Cinema
Tea & Coffee Lounge
FREE Internet

WAVE

Central Birmingham Gay
& Bisexual Health Club
Lower Essex Street,
Birmingham B5 4SN.
Tel: 0121 622 7070
www.bnh2sauna.info

**OPEN 7
DAYS A WEEK**
12pm - 11pm



ON THE BALL

with
Steve Ball

Hiding behind the sofa

When I was a kid, the one thing that was guaranteed to make me hide behind the sofa in fear were the Daleks in Doctor Who.

The same feelings of fear re-emerged 15 years later, watching telly with my parents, as John Inman and Larry Grayson camped it up on *Are You Being Served?* and *The Generation Game* respectively. In those bad old days, when I was struggling to come to terms with being gay and LGBT equality seemed like a pipe dream, the only representation of gay men in the media were comedy stereotypes.

But for the last few weeks, whenever you've switched on the TV, LGBT people in all their glory have been

gracing the small screen. Both the BBC and Channel Four offered queer programmes to mark the 50th anniversary of the Sexual Offences Act 1967, which partially decriminalised homosexual acts that took place in private between two men over the age of 21.

The BBC's *Gay Britannia* season featured bold and provocative stories that celebrated the LGBTQ community. We were treated to compelling dramas *Man In An Orange Shirt* and *Against The Law*, the latter starring Daniel Mays as journalist Peter Wildeblood (who was found guilty of homosexuality in the 1950s, in the explosive *Montagu Trial*). And there were important and timely documentaries too, such as

Is It Safe To Be Gay In The UK?

Over on Channel Four, the *50 Shades Of Gay* season included a documentary in which Rupert Everett delivered a personal take on the developments in British gay life since decriminalisation. The film *Epidemic*, meanwhile, focused on the fight against AIDS in the 1980s. And in Britain's Great Gay Buildings, famous faces championed the buildings where extraordinary moments in the country's gay history had taken place.

Imagine, a documentary on BBC Two, profiled photographer Robert Mapplethorpe, who shocked conservative America with shots of fisting and the BDSM scene. If my mother had been watching the programme with me, I would certainly have wanted to hide behind the childhood sofa.

So well done to Channel Four and the BBC for providing such an extravaganza of LGBT programmes. But let's not wait another 50 years for such broad and diverse queer programmes to appear on the schedules. We deserve to see our lives, hopes and issues reflected on our televisions and radios all year round, not just at the anniversaries of key political landmarks.



Adam's
RETREAT
Male Only
Naturist Guest House

Day Visits • Naturist Massage • Body Grooming
Sauna • Hot Tub • Secluded Gardens

Northamptonshire • Near Jct 16 M1 & Jct 11 M40 • NN11 3SL
t: 01295 768 866 m: 07745 843 648 e: info@adamsretreat.co.uk w: adamsretreat.co.uk



MGM BIRMINGHAM
Mature Gay Men

Meeting at 8pm the 1st Tuesday of the Month

MGM - Midlands.org.uk
mgmbham@gmail.com
07463 992196 - Tom/Paul
The Fox, Lower Essex Street, Birmingham, B5 6SN



SPARTAN
Male Health Club & Sauna

- Sauna
- Gym
- Fast Tan Club
- 2 TV Lounges
- Cafe
- Relaxation Areas
- Rest Rooms
- Air Conditioning

Opening times
Mon - Fri: 11am - 10pm
Sat: 11am - 6.30pm
Sun: Noon - 8.30pm

Prices
12 noon - 6pm: £10.00
After 6pm: £8.00
(Savers Card & Student discount available)

127 George Road, Erdington, Birmingham
0121 382 3345
www.spartanhealthclub.co.uk

ONLY 2 MINUTES FROM A66 JUNCTION 6 (SPAGHETTI).
JUST 5 MINUTES FROM BIRMINGHAM CITY CENTRE

THE VIRAL ROUND-UP

Here's what we've been looking at online...

We all do it - spend hours on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Often we're distracted from what we should be doing by cat videos and funny pranks - or by something feelgood that's been shared so much on the net it's officially classed as 'viral'. Well, here are some of Midlands Zone's favourites from the past month!



TOM DALEY & DUSTIN LANCE BLACK

release cute wedding video on honeymoon

Whilst (finally) on their honeymoon, Olympic diver Tom Daley and screenwriter Dustin Lance Black announced that they'd released their wedding video - and boy, were we holding back the tears when we

watched it!

The video is raising money for charities LGBT+ Switchboard and It Gets Better. If you haven't seen the film yet, check it out on YouTube at youtu.be/rdDR1QqMiCg

CELEB SNAPS!

Our fave celebrity Instagram pics...



We've got a huge soft spot for cute AF Russell Tovey (and his dogs)!



Speaking of Laverne Cox (above, right), how incredible does she look in this #TBT?!



We'd be keen to join the Warwick Rowers on this sofa!

Laverne Cox

narrates video of trans history



With Laverne Cox being one of the most prominent voices in the trans community, there can surely be no better person than her to narrate an animated video about trans history.

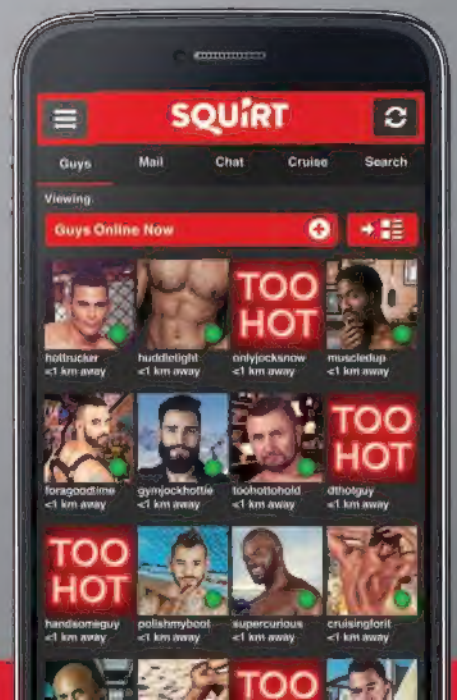
Presented by TIME and ACLU, the video is brilliantly animated and makes for an emotional viewing experience.

The film starts with the famous Stonewall riots of 1969, which are often cited as the beginning of the LGBTTI movement in the United States.

Watch it over on YouTube at: youtu.be/TYDjdoFKIGE

SQUIRT
.org

The
hookup site
TOO HOT
for the
app store





EVERY SATURDAY IN SEPTEMBER

FREE ENTRY

till midnight

£1 DRINKS*
ALL NIGHT



WWW.NIGHTINGALECLUB.CO.UK

*SELECTED DRINKS £1